

# True Story of Huey P. Long



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By George Bernard Rice



## "HUEY LONG"

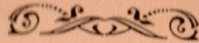
He dreams the dream of Brotherhood,  
Sacred are men to him.  
He knows the cause of broken lives,  
He sees the cause of sin.  
He knows the trials that greed hath wrought,  
His wisdom never errs.  
His is the heart that yearns for truth,  
His is the heart that cares.  
He sees unlawful fortunes stand,  
Their owners mad for gain,  
While youth and little children cry  
From this, our country's stain.  
His great heart, so like Lincoln's heart,  
So tender, true, sincere.  
His loving hands at Christ's command  
Would wipe away each tear.

Oh! Give him strength to battle on,  
As Lincoln did before,  
Immune to greed and evil's dart,  
To open Freedom's door.  
Yours are the eyes to see the light,  
Yours are ears to hear,  
Yours is the soul in which Christ dwells,  
Your message knows no fear.  
Each pen of bard, and songster's voice  
Would sing your praise in song.  
But the great God who fathers all  
Is guiding Huey Long.

— By DAVID DANIEL,

Long Beach, Calif.





## FOREWORD

Herein you will find the worst and best of Huey P. Long.

After you read this book you will know and understand Huey.

You will realize that he is both menace and messiah. A menace to the exploiters of the poor and a messiah for the forgotten man.

When you have finished reading this book you will forget the frivolities and remember the great achievements.

With millions of others you will appreciate the progressive character of this new genius of statesmanship.



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## TRUE STORY OF HUEY P. LONG

(By George Bernard Rice)

### I

King George said: "Who is this fellow Huey Long? Is he a Chinaman?"  
The Prime Minister replied: "No, your Majesty, he is the Kingfish of Louisiana."

"My word," the King exclaimed, "what is a Kingfish? Is it a new title for rulers, like that of Hitler, der fuehrer?"

"Yes, your Majesty," the Prime Minister said, bending low, "it means that he is the dictator of that Sovereign State."

This conversation is said to have taken place in Buckingham Palace quite some time after Huey had greeted the Commander of a German ship in green pajamas. It may have been a breach of international etiquette but it gave the world a laugh and resulted in putting the name of Huey P. Long on the front pages of every newspaper in America and Europe.

From the very beginning of his public career Huey has realized the value and power of publicity and he has used it to good advantage in acquiring the prestige and nationwide following which he possesses today as America's outstanding champion of democracy.

Today he is looked upon as the fearless leader of the people, the one who can safely and sanely lead them out of the chaos of present conditions, re-establish the social order and restore America to Americans.

To the cause of true democracy Huey Long has dedicated his life. In support of his efforts there are millions of Americans ready to follow him through hell!

They know Huey will not betray them. Like the good people of Louisiana who first recognized his worth and his genius for statesmanship they have faith in his leadership. They know he is right!

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First of all, let's clear up this newspaper-created myth of a dictatorship!

In easy-going Louisiana anybody can be dictator that wants the job. The rest of the folks are too lazy and unconcerned. They can't be bothered. They are too much in love with their leisure. They prefer having a good time. So it suits them if Huey or anyone else assumes the responsibilities



and the worries and the troubles of doing all the work and sharing all the wealth.

Being dictator also means jumping around the sovereign domain from parish to parish, which in ordinary commonwealths means from county to county, making speeches at every cross-roads, kissing new-born babies, hiring sound trucks, passing out tons of literature, ballyhooing over the radio. Thinking up new ideas, dodging eggs and over-ripe tomatoes. and, worst of all, continually fighting one's political enemies, the so-called opposition.

Huey is an adept at all these things. He welcomes danger and thrives on the vicious attacks of the newspapers and the underworld which seek to destroy him. That's why he is "dictator". He can take it!

His physical strength he acquired as a boy on a farm. He sharpened his wit as a young traveling salesman, selling cooking oil to country stores. (It would have been just as easy selling snowflakes to eskimos.) He mastered the art of talking with one hand, demonstrating with the other, and ducking behind the cracker barrel every time the rural merchant became overheated with the antics of this youth who would never take "no" for an answer.

Thus long before he became governor Huey was immune to opposition. He was inured to all degrees of ridicule. His initiation for the grand lodge of public life had received its finishing touches about the time he bet Abe Shushan, companion of the road, that he could beat the train to the next town.

He would have won but he did not figure that for several miles he had to traverse a trestle over a long swamp. It so happened that he narrowly escaped being killed. He cleared the trestle only a few seconds ahead of the train.

His friends who rode on the train waited for his arrival at the town and he paid off. Thereafter he decided that never again would he take a step unless he knew the entire way.

Strange, but since then Huey has made few if any mistakes. He knows where he is going. Every foot of the route. He knows and every intelligent person knows that his destination points directly to the White House.

He can't miss!

Since no one in Louisiana wants to be a dictator Huey decided that he would make every man a king, including himself. Later, he amended his decision and determined to make every woman a queen. There is nothing but face cards in Huey's conception of the game of life.

In carrying out his idea he wrote a book which told the world about himself and his aims. This book is a revelation of the philosophy which motivates the activities of the Kingfish. The title of the book, actually written by Huey himself, is: "Every Man A King."

Since then he has been pounding away, night and day, over the air and in his public appearances, driving home the salient features of his pro-

gram to restore America to democracy and distribute peace and plenty to all the people of the nation.

A development of his program is the Share-Our-Wealth clubs which are now organized like mushrooms all over the country.

These clubs represent the vast following which this young man from the hills of central Louisiana has built up in every state of the Union.

Through all his power and success he has preserved his equanimity and there is little doubt in the minds of millions of people that he is destined to restore the economic equilibrium and bring back the good old days to the land of the free and the brave.

Huey was born on a farm near Winnfield, Louisiana, forty years ago and lived the life of the average country boy until he worked his way through law school.

His charming wife is a former school teacher whom he met while conducting a contest to advertise the cooking oil he sold during the summer months. She baked a cake and won the prize. Their two sons and beautiful daughter are very talented and splendid students.

His first public office was state railway commissioner. The commission composed of three members fixed and regulated rates for railroads and other public utilities within the state. Subsequently the title was changed to public service commissioner.

In this office Huey started his first fight for the improvements which have finally under his constant supervision brought a long line of benefits to the state, including free school books, better schools, paved highways, free bridges, finer hospitals, larger asylums, more efficient charitable institutions, a greater state university, finer public buildings, lower gas rates, lower electric rates, and, among a host of other things too numerous to mention, reduced tax assessments.

He has kept every promise to the people.

There are those who say that he is rich. But no one can point out a single penny of graft.

As many as one hundred agents have poured over the records to find any act which might be construed as illegal or unconstitutional, but they found all acts of his administration within the letter and meaning of the law.

In his political progress he has defeated the most powerful "ring" of professional politicians in America. This "ring" entrenched with years of spoils and experience and organization was considered invincible in New Orleans. But Huey whipped them in a campaign which he conducted virtually singlehanded.

As a result of the campaign he cleaned up the cesspool of vice which



had festered in the heart of the city and spread crime and disease throughout the entire state. He closed the filthy brothels and put an iron-bound lid on the gambling dens. He did this alone. He sent thousands of prostitutes and other public parasites into retreat.

New Orleans is no longer the wicked city that God forgot. It is now a clean and decent city.

Huey did it!

The name of Huey Long is now a household word and any time or space devoted to introducing him is merely wasted effort. He is the most talked-of man in America today. What the people want to know is something about his trials and tribulations.

Well, he did not have any real trials or tribulations until the impeachment proceedings in 1929. There was one time before that he was tried for libel and fined one cent for calling a bigwig politician something or other. But as Huey never paid any attention to it neither did anybody else.

But there was plenty of racket over the impeachment voted by the Louisiana legislature and thrown out by a block of friends in the state senate, called by the press "round robineers," because Huey escaped his foes by the simple device of having more than a third of the senators sign a statement that they would not convict him regardless of the evidence. It required a two-thirds vote to oust him. Thus at the outset of his administration he triumphed over his foes.

The impeachment was somewhat sensational. It found its inception after Long and his former allies split. The first salvos in this tense drama were the affidavits and testimony published in the New Orleans newspapers. They were out to get Long!

II

Open hostilities started during the month of March, 1929, not quite one year after May 22, 1928, when Huey became governor.

There appeared in the New Orleans Sunday States affidavits purporting to be from hula-hula dancers who attended a "whoopie party" in the private studio of Alfred Danziger, wealthy real estate operator and well known attorney. It seems the party was staged on February 13, when three gambling palaces were raided by the state militia.

The "party girls" declared that while the militia was preparing to surprise the gamblers Huey was the center of attraction at the "whoopie party."

At the time of publication the New Orleans Daily States refused to publish the names of the "girls" but later during the impeachment proceedings their identities were revealed.

A report of their testimony and the testimony of other witnesses before the state legislature as presented in the columns of The Times-Picayune follows:

(Times Picayune — Thursday, April 25, 1929)

## HULA DANCER SAYS GOVERNOR WAS FRISKY AT STUDIO PARTY

### House Hears Details of Long's Solo Dance with Glass in Hand

Girl Performer tells Legislators Governor made her sit on his lap at Danziger's Entertainment

### LONG PUTS ARM AROUND SINGER

States Chief Executive was feeling good and sang to Guests at Party, Entertainer Testifies

Baton Rouge, La. — April 24th.

Helen Clifford, New Orleans hula hula dancer, testifying before the House of Representatives Wednesday night, said that Governor Huey P. Long was "very frisky" at the studio party given on the night of February 13 by Alfred D. Danziger. She told how the Governor pulled her on his lap and put his arm around her while she was singing.

Describing the costume she wore while seated on the Governor's lap, the girl said "I wore a straw skirt. I was bare except around my chest".

Governor Long was feeling so good after a short time that he sang and danced by himself, carrying a glass in his hand, Miss Clifford testified.

Mr. Danziger, who preceded the dancer on the stand, also told of the studio party.

### DANZIGER TAKES STAND

When the House reconvened at 8 P. M. Mr. McFarland was not recalled to the stand.

Instead, Alfred D. Danziger of New Orleans, who has been waiting to testify for several days, was called as a witness. Representative George K. Parrault, St. Landry, questioned Mr. Danziger:

"Are you married or single?"

"I am single."

"Do you recall being with Huey P. Long on the night of February 13?"

"I do. I called for Governor Long at the Roosevelt at about 7:30 P. M."

"Was the purpose of your meeting him at that hour known to Governor Long?"

"I had a conference with the Governor about 5:30 in his hotel rooms. We discussed the Lakeshore Highway. I was trying to show him why he



should not permit the abandonment of this project. The telephone would ring, there were knocks on the door and the Governor would be interrupted constantly. I asked him to join me at a birthday dinner party for one of my friends. I told him he would meet some nice people at the party and would have a nice time. He accepted my invitation and it was agreed that I would call for him at 7:30 P. M.

#### PARTY HELD AT HOTEL

"Where was this birthday dinner party held?"

"At the Jung Hotel".

"When was it concluded?"

"About 10:45 P. M."

"After the dinner party did the Governor accompany you to another entertainment?"

"Yes, I had arranged for a party at my St. Peter Street place, for a convention manager who was in town. I hoped to get some of the convention's business for the hotel with which I am connected. The convention manager did not meet me at the Jung Hotel at 10:30 P. M. as was planned, so I invited the entire dinner party to go down to my place. I drove the Governor down to the place 510 St. Peter Street, in my own car. The entertainers were waiting outside when we got there.

"I engaged the entertainers through Al Durning, who operates a regular booking agency, with an office on Canal Street. I told Al that I was planning a nice party and wanted nice entertainment."

"Is your place in the French Quarter?"

"It is."

#### SIX ENTERTAINERS PRESENT

"How many entertainers were there?"

"Six, not counting the piano player and Al Durning who supervised the entertainment."

"What type of entertainment did they offer?"

"I believe the first act was a sister team. The next, was a single singer and I think the third act also was a single song act. Next, as I remember, some girls danced and sang.

"Was a hula hula dance one of the features of the entertainment?"

"It was. I might say that there are various types of hula hula dances. They differ in degrees. Some are very peppy and some are conservative. My instructions to Durning for a conservative dance were followed.

"How was the hula hula dancer clad?"

#### WORE STRAW SKIRT

"She was dressed in the conventional or unconventional straw skirt, with an arrangement about the chest."

"Was she wearing shoes and stockings?"

"I don't believe so."

"The upper part of her body was bare, except for this arrangement?" which you spoke about, was it not?"

"I believe so; yes, it was bare."

"Was this woman served drinks prior to her dance?"

"I don't know. My place is about twenty feet wide and fifty feet long, with a stage in the rear. The entertainers were on the stage, for the most part."

"Didn't they come down? Didn't this young woman who did the hula dance come down and circulate among the guests?"

"The 'hula' dancer came down to the center of the room. The guests were sitting along the sides.

#### LONG ASKED ABOUT GIRLS

"Did you not call some of the entertainers and present them to the Governor?"

"No, I could not present them, I did not know their names."

"Did Governor Long ask you where you got so many pretty women?"

"He asked me where we got the entertainers. I told him."

"Did this 'hula hula girl' dance immediately in front of Governor Long?"

"I did not see her, if she did."

"Did you recall a conversation between the dancer and the Governor?"

"No."

"Didn't you hear the Governor urge more active dancing?"

"I did not."

#### DRINKS SERVED GUESTS

"About how many drinks were served during the performance?"

"I had one served to me. If more were served to my guests, I did not observe it."

"Were drinks served before the performance?"

"I don't think so."

"Didn't you have some one to serve drinks?"

"I had a man to wait on my guests."

"There was no food served, was there?"

"No. We had a full course dinner before we went to my place."

"As many drinks as were wanted were served, weren't they?"

"That is correct."

#### GUESTS WERE JOLLY

"Do you remember if Governor Long took a drink?"

"I saw him with a glass in his hand containing a drink. I don't know if he took one or more drinks. I don't know if he drained his glass."

"Were your guests gay or sober?"

"They were jolly, it was in keeping with the occasion."

"Did you see the Governor dancing?"

"The Governor was exceptionally nervous that night. He could not stay in one place more than a few minutes. He wasn't having as jolly a time as the rest of us."

"Did you see him dancing by himself?"



### KEPT TIME WITH MUSIC

"No, I saw him walking across the floor, keeping time with the music. You might say that he kept step like he was about to start to dance."

"Did he have a glass in his hand?"

"Yes. I don't know if he drained it or not. He had a glass in his hand most of the time he was there."

"Did you hear him singing?"

"I don't recall that he sang. I paid no more attention to the Governor than to my fifteen other guests. I had to see that all of them were taken care of."

"Did the Governor get on the stage?"

"When we first got in I showed him the lighting arrangements on the stage. I don't think he was on the stage after that."

"Did you not see a certain female performer sit in the Governor's lap?"

"I saw one try. Governor Long told her not to do that and shoved her away."

### WOMEN LYING DOWN

"How long was Governor Long there?"

"Between thirty and forty minutes."

"Were alcoholic drinks served at the party prior to your studio party?"

"I want to protect myself and my friends. Let me see about that. There are certain non-alcoholic beverages. There was beverage served at the dinner and I have no reason to think it was the non-alcoholic kind."

"Did anyone show evidence of being under the influence of liquor?"

"If any one there was intoxicated, I didn't observe it."

"Was any one lying down, rather than sitting?"

"Yes. There was a girl at the party who was very pretty and who was accustomed to being admired. She was reclining on the settee, inviting admiration, I believe."

"How long did this studio party last?"

### THEY'RE RAIDING!

"I drove the Governor to the Roosevelt about 11:30 or 11:40 P. M. He looked at his watch, after getting out of my car. 'I can tell you now,' he said. 'They're raiding'. He ran up the hotel steps after saying that and telling me that he enjoyed the party."

"Didn't the Governor make reference at the party to a purpose to be effected by him that night?"

"I didn't hear him if he did. When I returned to my studio I asked my guests what they thought about that. I told them that while we were having a jolly time the militia was raiding. I presumed, from what I learned later, that one of the entertainers went to the telephone and called Tranchina's after the militia was there."

### "NEVER INTOXICATED"

"Didn't the Governor exhibit a marked change in attitude while in your studio?"

"I didn't observe it. He didn't seem to be able to enter into the spirit like some of us did. He looked at his watch often."

"Where did the entertainers dress?"

"In the lavatory behind the stage."

"Did you see any one other than the entertainers?"

"No. I didn't go back there during the entire evening."

"Had you drank enough to be considered under the influence of liquor?"

"No. I have never been intoxicated in my life."

### PURPOSE OF THEATER

Representative Perrault asked Mr. Danziger the purpose of the Theater in the Pontalba Building on St. Peter Street. Mr. Danziger explained that the studio was first fixed up by an English Artist. The stage, the witness testified, was built by members of the Little Theater. The place, he explained, is frequently used for Musicals, recitals and other entertainments.

"I haven't been to my place more than three times in the past nine months" Mr. Danziger explained.

"What is above your place?"

"There have been some very nice persons including sincere writers and artists in the building."

"Does not a great deal of New Orleans Night Club Life take place in the vicinity of the Pontalba Building?"

"I might explain that the Custodian of our building is very strict."

Representative Ellender took the witness;

"Were your guests among the leading citizens of New Orleans?"

"In my opinion, my guests of that night are all favorably known."

### SEVEN LADIES AT PARTY

"How many ladies were there at the party?"

"Seven."

"Did Governor Long conduct himself in any manner other than the manner of a gentleman?"

"If he did, I did not see him."

"What about the characters of the ladies who were there?"

"I have the greatest respect for them. One was an accomplished pianist and singer. She favored us with selections from several Operas after the Governor went to the Hotel."

Representative Peltier asked Mr. Danziger to give his connections with the Civic Organizations in New Orleans. The witness testified that he is President of the Association of Commerce, Past President of the Young Mens Business Club, Past President of the Louisiana League of Homesteads and former Chairman of the Louisiana Committee of the Homestead League. Mr. Danziger asked permission to file in evidence affidavits by Al Durning and Al Carlys, Durning's assistant, declaring that the entertainment at the studio party was proper.



### AT GOVERNOR'S CONVENTION

Representative Clinton Sayes, Avoyelles, took the witness, before he left the stand.

"Were you at the Governor's convention in New Orleans?"

"I attended the reception in the Supreme Court Chamber and the banquet at the Roosevelt."

"Were you at the parties referred to by Mr. Weiss?"

"I was not."

### HULA DANCER TESTIFIES

When Mr. Danziger was excused Helen Clifford, Professional Entertainer, took the witness stand. Representative Perrault, opened the examination.

"What do you specialize in?"

"The Hula Dance."

"Where are you employed now?"

"I am not working."

"Where were you employed lately?"

"I was dancing at Jack Sheehan's."

"Describe the costume you wore when you danced at the party attended by Governor Long."

"I wore a straw skirt. I was bare except around my chest."

"How long were you on the floor dancing?"

"Ten or fifteen minutes."

"Did you see anyone drinking?"

### DRINKING HIGHBALLS

"Yes. They were drinking highballs."

"Were you offered drinks?"

"Yes. The waiter offered me some drinks. I didn't take it."

"Could you tell that the guests had been drinking when they arrived?"

"Yes. They drank more after they arrived, too. Every one was drinking."

"Did you see Governor Long?"

"Yes."

"Did you see him drinking?"

"Yes."

"Was the Governor gay or moody?"

### GOVERNOR "VERY FRISKY"

"He was quiet at first. Later he got very frisky."

"What evidence of friskyness did he show?"

"He sang with a glass in his hand and danced by himself."

"Did he spend most of his time dancing?"

"No. He spent most of his time on the settee with a woman."

"He kept playing with the woman's hair."

"Were you presented to the Governor?"

"Yes. When we first got in the studio Mr. Danziger asked if we knew

him. One girl said "it was Huey Long, because he had a dimple in his cheek. I saw Governor Long before in Luling."

### LONG "HAD PLENTY"

"Did you hear any one address the Governor?"

"Yes. I heard the woman on the settee call "Come here, Huey."

"Did the Governor appear to be what we call "Lit up?"

"He had plenty."

"Did you hear him say anything to the woman on the settee?"

"I heard him say that he was feeling good enough to go and do what he had to do."

"Did you dance particularly for Huey P. Long?"

"Yes. A man asked me to dance in front of the Governor."

"Did the Governor comment about this?"

"He didn't say anything."

### GIRL TIPPED OFF RAID

"Do you know whether the purpose to raid was made known to any other entertainer at the studio?"

"I heard that one of the girls found out about it and telephoned too late."

"Did she say why she telephoned?"

"She said she just wanted to call."

"Did she later learn that this girl had a "Sweetie" working at Jack Sheehan's?"

"That's what Mr. Durning told me."

"When you were dancing in front of the Governor, did he do anything?"

### PULLED GIRL ON LAP

"He pulled me on his lap."

"HOW long were you on his lap?"

"Just a few minutes."

"Did he push you off?"

"I got off when I was through with my song."

Representative J. E. McClanahan questioned the dancer;

"Were you working at the time of this party?"

"I was filling dates made by Al Durning for entertainment."

"Since the party you testified you have worked for Jack Sheehan? Were you on Sheehan's payroll?"

"Certainly. It was arranged before the party for me to start work at Jack Sheehan's April 15th."

### TELLS OF AFFIDAVIT

"To whom did you make an affidavit in this matter?"

"To Mr. Daly in his office."

"Who prevailed on you to make the affidavit?"

"A newspaper man asked me to make the affidavit. He said he worked for the Item."

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"Didn't Sheehan talk to you about the affidavit?"

"No. He didn't know anything about it."

"Who asked you to dance in front of the Governor?"

"I don't know. I didn't know anyone at the party except Governor Long."

"Did you hesitate about sitting on the Governor's lap?"

"Yes. The Governor pulled me."

"Did you get up voluntarily or were you pushed?"

"He pushed me once and pulled me back."

#### GOVERNOR EMBRACED GIRL

"While you were on his lap, could you get up?"

"He had his arm around my neck."

"It is not unusual for you to sit in men's laps, is it?"

"No."

"Was the governor's lap the first man's lap you ever sat in?"

"No; I am married." The answer brought much laughter.

"How long did you live with your husband?"

"Three years."

"Are you living with him now?"

"No. We have been separated two months."

"Did he say anything to you about sitting in the Governor's lap?"

"No. It wasn't about that."

"Did you tell him about it?"

"Yes."

"What did he do or say?"

"What could he do? It was not my fault."

"Didn't he get mad about you sitting in men's laps?"

"No. We did not separate about that."

"Did he leave you or did you leave him?"

"I left him."

#### SAYES' OBJECTION UPHOLD

Representative Sayes objected to the line of question. His objection was sustained. Representative Perrault also voiced an objection, declaring that "the lady's status has been fixed by her own frank testimony."

Representative McClanahan continued his interrogation;

"Where did you meet the man who told you he represented the Item?"

"In Fuerst and Kraemers in New Orleans."

"Were you introduced?"

"Yes. My sister-in-law introduced us." He started to talk about Long. I told him I knew the Governor. When he learned that I was at the studio party he asked me to make an affidavit."

#### NO INDUCEMENT OFFERED

"Was any inducement or any employment offered you?"

"No."

"Did you tell anyone you would get employment for signing the affidavit?"

"I did not. That isn't true."

"What did Governor Long say while you were on his lap?"

"He couldn't talk, I was singing."

"Were you singing a lullaby especially for the Governor?"

"I don't remember what I was singing. I was singing for everyone there."

Representative Sidney Marchand, Ascension, questioned the witness;

"Where was Mr. Danziger when you were on the Governor's lap?"

"He was in the room."

"Have any of your near relatives been to Donaldsonville lately?"

"Not that I know of."

#### WOMEN MADE MOST NOISE

Representative Lester Lautenschlaeger, New Orleans, questioned Miss Clifford;

"Where were you when the others were entertained?"

"Behind stage."

"Did any one else go behind stage?"

"The waiter was the only one I saw besides the entertainers."

"Were guests at the party making much noise?"

"The women were talking more than the men."

"When did you hear the Governor tell the lady he was feeling good enough to do what he had to do?"

"While I was dancing the Hula."

"There was nothing in your affidavit about your being pulled back by the Governor, was there?"

"No."

"Did you meet the Item reporter accidentally?"

"Yes."

"Did any other girls hear what the Governor said and later discuss it?"

#### DOESN'T KNOW THOMAS

"I don't remember talking about it with the other girls."

Representative Raoul Sere, New Orleans, took the witness;

"Were you ever an entertainer at Tranchina's?"

"No."

"Do you know a Mr. Thomas?"

"No."

"Who introduced you to Mr. Thomas?"

"I don't know Mr. Thomas."

"Where have you been employed for the past three months?"

"I haven't been working lately."

"Does your husband support you?"

"Yes."

"Does he support you under a Court order?"

"There is no order of Court."

#### LONG DANCED WITH "MABEL"

Representative Lautenschlaeger resumed his examination;



"Did Governor Long dance with anyone?"

"Yes. He danced with Mabel, one of the entertainers."

Representative Waldo Dugas of Lafayette took the witness;

"How long were you in Mr. Daly's office?"

"About an hour."

"Who was there?"

"Mr. Daly and two other men who worked for him."

Representative Pegues asked the witness if she was summoned to testify.

She said that she received no summons.

"Then, how do you happen to come up here?" questioned Representative Sere.

#### SUMMONED BY DALY

"Mr. Daly told me when I signed the affidavit I would have to come up here some time. He called me several days ago and told me to come up here."

"Where do you live?"

"On Euterpe Street."

The witness declined to answer Representative Sere's demand for her telephone number. When instructed by the Committee Chairman, she answered:

"Mr. Daly called me at Jackson 4147 J. The telephone is not in my name but is right next door to where I live."

When the examination of the witness was completed the House adjourned until 10 a. m. Friday.

#### III

The foregoing reveals how obvious were the attempts to "frame" Huey. Additional testimony presented by the foes of Long show clearly that the so-called impeachment was merely a scheme to railroad the Governor out of office and into the penitentiary. An account of these records as published in the morning edition of the Times-Picayune, April 24, follows:

(Times-Picayune — Wednesday, April 24, 1929)

### FERNANDEZ BARES BRIBE OFFER MADE BY GOVERNOR LONG

Formal Notice that Vote will be Taken Thursday follows sensational Testimony in House

#### Senator Relates Proposal for Job

New Orleans Solon says he was tendered Choice of Three Places as Recently as Week Ago

Baton Rouge, La., April 23 — After Senator J. O. Fernandez of New Orleans recited to the House of Representatives today the details of Governor Huey P. Long's apparent attempt to bribe him as a member of the court of impeachment, Representative Cecil Morgan of Caddo gave formal notice that the House will be asked to vote Thursday on Article No. 4 of the impeachment resolution which charges the Governor with misuse and misapplication of public funds.

Seven specific charges of misuse and misapplication of funds are contained in the resolution introduced by Representative Morgan late this afternoon, which will be argued and voted on by the House Thursday.

#### MANY SPECIFIC CHARGES

The seven charges are:

1. — That Governor Long failed to account for \$2000 of the \$6000 appropriated for the entertainment of visitors to the governor's conference in New Orleans last November.

2. — That Governor Long paid his cousin, W. O. Long, \$728.25 out of the mansion and traveling fund.

3. — That Governor Long used \$1,112.40 of the funds appropriated for the up-keep of the executive mansion for the purchase of Law books for his private use.

4. — That Governor Long caused \$4000 to be paid to J. C. Wimberly for detective culverts on a road in Bossier Parish.



5. — That Governor Long paid Joseph Messina \$200 of the mansion fund for work done for the Governor personally. Messina is the reputed Body Guard of the Governor.

#### PAID FOR RESIGNATION

6. — That Governor Long caused V. Richardson, Secretary Treasurer of the State Colony and Training School at Alexandria, to be paid \$3000 salary and \$2400 maintenance for no work done so that Mr. Richardson would resign and allow his position to be given to B. F. Eubanks, a supporter of the Governor.

7. — That Governor Long leased space in the Louisiana National Bank Bldg. in Baton Rouge for the Highway Commission and that the Governor used a part of this space for his own private Law Office and for housing his own private Law Library.

While all of the charges are included in one resolution, it is probable that each charge will be voted on separately.

Startling testimony of how he was taken to Governor Long's Hotel room a week ago and offered his choice of being Registrar of Voters of Orleans Parish or membership on either the Highway Commission or the Louisiana Tax Commission if he "would be fair to the Governor at the impeachment trial by the Senate", was given by Senator Fernandez.

The testimony of Senator Fernandez bore out the statement attributed to Governor Long that he has "fourteen Senators with him regardless". While Governor Long denied making this statement Senator Fernandez averred that the Governor attempted to make him believe he had a "number of signatures on a piece of paper", and wanted Senator Fernandez' signature to increase that number.

Charles A. Battle who recently resigned as President of the Board of Parole, followed Senator Fernandez on the stand, and told how he resigned rather than approve the expense accounts of O. B. Thompson, the Parole Officer forced on the Board by Governor Long.

C. R. Mixon, Captain of the Receiving Station of the State Penitentiary and assistant Seargeant of Arms of the House of Representatives, testified that silverware taken from the executive mansion before its demolition, was engraved with the name of Huey P. Long and that he was informed that this silverware was to be shipped to Shreveport.

Mrs. Grave Munding, M. H. Bennett and P. H. Barry, former office employees of the Highway Commission, testified that Governor Long told them and sixty other employees that O. K. Allen, Chairman and other members of the Commission were not their bosses.

"I'm the only Boss there is", the witness quoted Governor Long as saying. The Governor's statement was made, according to the witnesses when he told them to support the Gas Tax amendment or submit their resignations.

#### FERNANDEZ TESTIFIES

Senator Fernandez was called to the stand shortly after the House went into the Committee of the whole, and he was examined by Representative J. Y. Sanders, Jr., of East Baton Rouge Parish.

"Are you a member of the Senate of Louisiana?" Representative Sanders asked.

"I am a member of the Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment", Senator Fernandez replied.

"Were you in Baton Rouge yesterday a week ago?"

"Yes."

"Did you have occasion to have a conversation with Governor Long?"

"I did have a conversation with Governor Long."

"How did you come to have that conversation?"

"Shortly after I arrived in Baton Rouge, I went to the Heidelberg Hotel for Lunch. I met the Governor there. Governor Long asked me to go to his room to get something to eat. I went with him to his home, but I considered the conversation I had with him private."

"Are you willing to tell what took place?"

"I hesitate to do so."

"Is it not a fact that he offered you a bribe?"

"If you gentlemen consider it that way."

"What was the nature of the Governor's conversation with you?"

"If you insist, I feel it is my duty to tell it."

#### ANSWER DEMANDED

Representative Charles Roberts of Lincoln, Chairman of the sub-committee conducting the preliminary hearing asked;

"Senator Fernandez, do you claim immunity under the Law?"

"No, I cannot," Senator Fernandez replied.

"Was the Governor talking to you as a member of the Senate?"

"Yes."

Chairman Roberts ruled that Senator Fernandez would have to answer the question.

"Did the Governor's conversation have anything to do with impeachment proceedings?" Representative Sanders resumed.

"Yes."

"State the proposition the Governor made to you."

"Governor Long told me we had been friends for ten years. I told him we had not been political friends. Then the Governor said that the impeachment proceedings were a crime being perpetrated on the people.

"Governor Long told me that he was holding open the position of Registrar of Voters of Orleans Parish and that he was satisfied I could have that position as he felt I would give him a square deal. Governor Long also told me he had an opening on the Louisiana Tax Commission and an opening on the Highway Commission"

#### PLEDGES "SQUARE DEAL"

"I told the Governor that regardless of any job I would give him a square deal when the time came to judge his case in the Senate. I told him I was under no political obligations, and had taken an oath as a juror to be guided by the evidence."

"Why did he offer you these positions?"



"I don't know why but judge he wanted my help."

"Did the Governor say anything about getting a fair trial?"

"Yes, I told him to rest assured that I would give him a fair trial."

"Did the Governor continue to press his offer of a job?"

"Yes. I told the Governor that if I would vote to acquit him contrary to the evidence presented at the trial in the Senate I would be a ruined man for the rest of my life and that I could not face my people."

"Did he offer you the job of "Registrar of Voters" of Orleans Parish?"

"Yes, but I couldn't take that seriously, as I know that Governor Long and Speaker Fournet are members of the State Board of Registration, and they could remove any Registrar of Voters at their pleasure."

"The Governor told me that he would make a place for me as a member of the Highway Commission, and then told me he would give me Mr. Colbert's place on the Louisiana Tax Commission. The Governor pointed out that if I were appointed a member of the Tax Commission, my term of office would extend into the next Administration."

"Did the Governor say anything about having fourteen Senators with him?"

"The Governor pulled out some papers. One of the papers had some signatures on it but I was not close enough to see the names or how many names. The paper did have some signatures on it, and it said something in the last paragraph about a reprimand for the Governor."

"Did the Governor say anything about helping him in the Senate?"

"The Governor said he had some signatures but probably wanted a few more votes in the Senate."

"So the substance of your testimony is that the Governor offered you your choice of Registrar of Voters, member of the Tax Commission or Member of the Highway Commission if you would give him a square deal?"

"Yes."

"And the Governor continued to offer any of these jobs to you after you assured him you would give him a square deal?"

"Yes."

(By Representative Ellender:)

"All the offers the Governor made were coupled with a square deal?"

"Yes."

"And you told him that irrespective of the jobs you would give him the square deal?"

"Yes."

(Senator Fernandez was then excused from the stand.)

#### IV

Anyone reading the testimony of impeachment proceedings as published in the columns of the Times-Picayune, one of the avowed enemies of Huey P. Long, can plainly see between the lines that the whole movement against him was a crime against the character of a man who was trying out a plan to redeem his native state from fifty years of mal-administration.

As further evidence of the extremes to which the foes of Huey went to turn the people against him there is the affidavit of H. A. "Battling" Bozeman, which was published with much fanfare and big headlines in the Times-Picayune, April 25, while the legislature was in session hearing the so-called charges. The alleged affidavit follows:

### BOZEMAN CHARGES LONG TEMPTED TO HIRE HIM TO ASSASSINATE SANDERS

#### Full Text of Accusation Against Governor Is Made Public

Baton Rouge, March 25 — The full text of H. A. "Battling" Bozeman's affidavit charging that Governor Long had attempted to hire him to assassinate Representative J. Y. Sanders of Baton Rouge:

### BOZEMAN'S AFFIDAVIT

Bozeman's affidavit follows:

Baton Rouge, La., March 25,

State of Louisiana, Parish of East Baton Rouge. To the people of Louisiana:

My name is H. A. "Battling" Bozeman of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Of my own free will and accord and because I love Louisiana and feel it is my duty forced upon me by the chief executive of this state, Governor Huey P. Long, I make this statement; I campaigned for Long and was his staunch supporter when he was elected Governor and came to Baton Rouge. He sent for me to act as his body guard, telling me then, if at any time anybody wanted to know whether or not I was his body guard to tell them no.

When Senator Norris C. Williamson opposed some of his measures, he (Governor Long) had me to call him down and threaten him if he did not "lay off" the Governor and myself, which I did, letting Long make a goat of me by dictating a statement to Miss Grosjean, his secretary and having me to sign same, and here and now I wish to apologize to Senator Norris C. Williamson for the statement thus made.



### SAYS HE WAS NOT PAID

I also wish to state that Long used me from ten to sometimes twenty hours a day, promising to pay me \$250.00 per month, but for the two months that I wasted guarding his dirty hide he never has paid me anything but a promise, which is the same deal he promised so many of the good people of Louisiana that he fooled during his campaign for Governor.

After the session of the Legislature was over in 1928, Long put me to work in the Highway Commission as an assistant road supervisor under J. P. "Blacky" Burgin, Jr. I worked along some few months when "Blacky" Burgin came to me with a proposition that he would pad the pay rolls with me and put one hundred dollars to one hundred fifty more on our salaries, telling me that he, Burgin, would get all the checks passed and split with me and that I would be in no danger of being caught.

Burgin also made a proposition to his mechanic that he would furnish the money to buy automobile parts at wholesale price and sell them to the state at retail prices and that he would split with him. Both the mechanic, J. H. Lee, and myself refused to be a party to any thieving whatsoever.

### CHARGES PAY ROLL PADDING

Burgin has paid some of the men on the job many days pay for work they did not do, having one man dig a grave and telling him to put in his time as ditching. His name being on the books. Also paying one man, Claude Favrot, many hours that he did not earn and two days he attended a football game played by L. S. U.

I know of many other instances in which the state money is squandered by the highway department.

Burgin also allows his men to steal aluminum from the highway barn and sell it to the junk dealers. The man that was caught doing this and confessed was named Humphries "Hogtooth" Harelson. Burgin also allows this man and others to go back and forth from their work and use at other times a pleasure car. They also allow out at the barn sleeping on the job in the day time. One man by the name of Alcee Guitreaux sleeps almost constantly in the office.

All of this mess was taken up with Burgin by the bookkeeper, Mr. Breeden. Whereupon Burgin bawled the bookkeeper out. He (Burgin) was drunk at the time. Said to the bookkeeper, "I am running things out here \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Allen, Huey and all of 'em, I'm the boss."

### DRUNKENNESS CHARGED

Burgin has constantly been drunk on the job, hauling whisky in the state car quite frequently.

I got tired of the way things were going and called on Mr. Allen, also the governor and the entire highway commission, telling them just how the state money was being squandered, whereupon the governor sent me to see O. K. Allen again and Allen tells me, also Mr. Breeden and the rest of the men to wait until after the gas tax election was over and he would clean that bunch of crooks out — just saying he didn't want to hurt the bond is-

sue by having anything come up at the present time. Thus time and again the wool was pulled over the people's eyes.

After the election was over, I called on the governor again and had many of my friends do this same thing. The governor said, "I have ordered O. K. Allen to make an investigation, Go see O. K."

I again went to Mr. Allen, and Mr. Allen said to me, "I want you to have every man that works at the barn present Thursday night. I'm going to fire the whole damn outfit." I arranged the meeting; told every man on the job to stay under Mr. Allen's orders. Burgin, Guitreaux and "Hogtooth" Harelson refused to stay for the investigation. We stayed there until around 9 o'clock and Mr. Allen failed to show up. Finally I got him on the telephone. He made all kinds of apologies telling me that "he forgot" that the meeting was called; that we would have to set another night.

### "GOOD AT FORGETTING"

Good people of the State of Louisiana. that is how your highway chairman is capable of conducting the affairs of the highway commission, but after you learn the governor and the balance of his henchmen, and know them as well as I do, you will know that they are good at this forgetting business — anything to double-cross the public.

We finally got Mr. Allen, Gejan and Mr. J. E. Henderson to come out to the barn and hold this investigation, but again Burgin, Harelson, and Guitreaux failed to stay.

Mr. Allen said, "I will fire that bunch immediately," sending for me to come to the highway office in a few days. Mr. Allen said, "Mr. Bozeman, you know as well as I do that these men ought to be fired, but for other reasons than efficiency I am compelled to keep them on the job. I want to send you to New Orleans in order to hush this mess up. The governor says for me to raise your salary and the other men that are so strongly opposed to Burgin's tactics, to send them along with you, providing they will hush all this mess up."

They sent us to New Orleans after a short time they fired some of the other men, retaining myself, Mr. Lee and Mr. Broussard.

### URGES INQUIRY

Now, people of the State, all of these men were given from \$2.00, \$2.50 a day more money in wages just to hide the crooked work that Huey P. Long and the Highway Commission is upholding. I say let the crookedness be investigated. The statement only touches a few spots.

Huey Long sent for me to come to the Governor's mansion about five or six weeks ago. I went to see the Governor one Saturday when I came up to New Orleans to spend the week-end with my family. The Governor said to me, "Battling Bozeman, I am the kaiser of this state; when I crack my whip whoever dares to disobey my orders regardless of what they may be, I'll fire 'em. They won't last as long with me after disobeying one of my commands as a snowball will in hell. Shut that door over there" he



says. "Come down here and sit down by me." The Governor had been drinking. I smelled it on his breath.

He says "Battling Bozemann, I am going to call an extra session of the Legislature", and he says, "This \_\_\_\_\_ J. Y. Sanders, Jr., is going to disapprove of all my measures and I want to get him out of my way. I have chosen you to do away with this \_\_\_\_\_. I says "Governor, what do you mean?" He says, "I mean for you to kill the \_\_\_\_\_, leave him in the ditch where nobody will know how and when he got there. I'm the Governor of this State, and if you were to be found out, I would give you a full pardon and many gold dollars."

#### DECLINES TO ACT

My answer to the Governor was: "I trust the people of Louisiana, and most especially around Baton Rouge, my home town, know me better than to think that I was a gangster and while J. Y. Sanders, Jr., opposed you in everything that you may bring before the House and Senate, I wouldn't harm a hair of his head, for the simple reason he is my friend, but the most particular reason is because I am not that kind of a man."

"If any man insults me I am ready and will fight for my rights, but for me to commit a wilful and plotted murder — there is nothing doing."

The Governor says, "Go back to New Orleans and go to work and think it over; remember I'm the Governor and you'll be in no danger whatsoever."

In about a couple of weeks the Governor stopped me on the street while I was here during the week-end, and says to me, "Well, what about it?" I says "Oh everything seems to be all right. I believe it is going to rain." The Governor says, "D — n the rain, I mean what about Sanders," whereupon I says to the Governor, "I have given you my final answer as to him." The Governor says, "Very well, remember what I told you. I'm the boss", he roared it at me and turned, mad, walking away.

#### BOZEMAN DISMISSED

I went on back to New Orleans and after a few days a telegram came from L. R. Ames, saying to pay Bozeman off immediately, right now, not tomorrow. Whereupon I received a letter from the boss in New Orleans notifying me of my dismissal. Knowing how things stood, I, in advance, told my friends in New Orleans and Luling, La., where I was stationed, that Long was dirty and that any time I received my walking papers it would be no surprise to me.

Now, people, I would like to know if for any other reason by my refusal to commit murder for Governor Long, why was I fired from the Highway Commission.

After receiving my letter of dismissal, I returned to Baton Rouge, and went to the highway office for my check.

I talked to Mr. Allen, Ames and Nugent, after them telling me that they did not know why I was dismissed, other than they were cutting down the forces. I told Allen, Ames and Nugent that I thought that if they were going to let me off for that reason and keep a bunch of drunkards and crooks, that I thought that they wasn't as decent as the crooks and drunkards, but

that the Governor knew the reason why I was fired and was going to let my friends know the real cause. They must have told the Governor what I said, because when I came out of Allen's office, Cunningham told me that the Governor wanted to see me, that he thought (Cunningham), the Governor had another job for me.

#### GOES TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

I went to the Governor's office and asked Miss Grosjean to go in and tell the Governor that I was out there — that if the Governor wants to see me I'll wait. If he don't, I won't. I did not tell Miss Grosjean what I wanted. She asked if she could deliver the message. I told her no. I wanted to tell the Governor that I was through with him and did not care to have any jobs he had, as I was straight and honest.

Not being able to see the Governor, I thought I would tell him myself, not sending any message by Miss Grosjean.

Miss Grosjean went in and told the Governor I was there. The Governor sent word he couldn't see me that day.

Mr. Allen called me to his office at the Highway Commission a few days ago. I went and he and Ames told me that they wanted to investigate that crookedness at the barns. They had all the witnesses they could get, even phoned to New Orleans for two witnesses, and the following day heard all the testimony from the witnesses they could get in touch with, and then a few days later Allen asked me to come up to his office. I went and he told me that they were going to keep Burgin and as work was scarce and jobs few he did not see anything he could offer me at present.

#### TALKS TO NUGENT

I told him not to worry, that I did not care to have anything more to do with him or the Governor either.

That night I was standing in the Istrouma lobby talking with Mr. Dewey Chapman — when Jessie Nugent came along, the Governor's first cousin. He says, "Well, how's things with you, how do you feel to-night?" I replied, "You ought to know how I feel, after you fellows fired me like you did," and he answered, "Oh, that's all right, you don't know what I know. I just came out of the Governor's room." This was Thursday night, the Governor was broadcasting from the Istrouma Hotel. He, Nugent, says, "Come over here I want to tell you something. I went over in a corner with Nugent close to the front door, and he says, "The Governor want's to see you," and I answered, "You birds won't get a second chance to do me," and he says "everything will be all right."

"The Governor will give you a fine job, just keep what you know under your hat." He then left the hotel, whereupon I returned to Mr. Chatman and Harley Bozeman came over and said, "Stay here, I'll be back in five minutes," Then Mr. Beasley came up to me and asked me if I had a gun. I told him, "No, why?" He answered, "Things don't look so good to me to-night. When Huey comes down I want you to walk to the Heidelberg Hotel with us."



# REFUSES TO GO

I told him no, I had nothing to defend myself with, and that if any trouble arose I wouldn't be able to take care of myself.

Then Harley Bozeman returned and told me, "I have fixed things up for you." I thanked him and told him I didn't want any jobs Huey Long had.

The next morning the Governor met me in the second lobby of the State House and says to me, "Bozeman, I want you to go to work in the morning." He says, "I'll give you a raise, I'll pay you \$400.00 per month and give you a new car." I asked what was the job. He says, "The most work you'll have to do is go get your check." I told him, "I want none of your jobs and nothing to do with you at all."

All of this statement is facts made by me. Nobody but me. Of course I expect for Long to deny this. If he does he is a liar, and I'll stand up for the truth no matter if he is the Governor. I know that the only way he strikes back at me is to get some of his henchmen to do me as he wanted me to do J. Y. Sanders, Jr.

I warn my friends in advance if anything happens to me that nobody can be blamed but Huey P. Long or some of his henchmen.

HARRY A. BOZEMAN

State of Louisiana,  
Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Before me, undersigned authority, personally came and appeared Harry Aldrich Bozeman, personally known to me, who, being duly sworn, did depose and say that the above and foregoing statement was dictated by him and that his signature is his true and genuine signature, that the statements made therein are true and correct, that the interlineations were made under his direction and that the foregoing statement was made of his own free will and accord.

Witnesses:

Mrs. N. C. Cox  
S. M. Carpenter.

Sworn and subscribed before me and the witnesses whose names appear above, this 25th day of March, 1929.

VICTOR A. SACHSE  
Notary Public.

## V

Another piece of false propaganda published while the impeachment legislature was in session, but never presented as evidence, was printed in the Times-Picayune, April 24. It follows:

(Times-Picayune, New Orleans, La., April 24, 1930)

## CONVICTS WORKED ON PRIVATE FARM OF LONG'S FRIEND

Between 40 and 50 prisoners employed on rice plantation under mysterious contract. Equipment owned by penitentiary. Nine tractors, pumps and tools are furnished by State institution, employes on tract assert.

"I will give you an answer tomorrow," Gov. Huey P. Long said Wednesday night when shown the dispatch from New Roads telling of the working of convicts on rice plantation, if the Times-Picayune will give the same play to my statement tomorrow that they give to their story I will feel that they have done the state a great service and my administration quite a favor.

(By C. C. McCann)

(Times-Picayune Staff Representative)

New Roads, La., April 23, 1930

Convicts of the State penitentiary are being worked on a privately owned and operated rice farm near New Roads in violation of the Louisiana Constitution under a (mysterious) contract between the penitentiary and John P. Burgin, Sr., Baton Rouge contractor, father of John P. Burgin, Jr., district maintenance superintendent of the highway commission, it was learned here today, between 40 and 50 convicts have been at work on the farm located about 7 miles north-east of here since Feb. 22, and according to employes of the rice plantation, all of the production and construction equipment, including 9 contractors, pumps and tools, are being provided by the penitentiary.

The land is owned by three Baton Rouge Banks, the Louisiana National Bank, the Union Bank & Trust Company, and the Bank of Baton Rouge, having been taken over last fall under default of mortgages from the Cloverland Farm Company. Early this year, bank officials said, the land was leased to John P. Burgin, Sr., at the rate of \$4.00 per acre for the portion of the 3648 acres put into cultivation.

Rumors say even seed furnished. At the time the lease was signed, the bankers said, no mention of the use of convicts was made to them nor was there any indication that it was not a strictly private deal. But shortly thereafter, the penitentiary records show that convicts were sent to the



farm and had been there since preparing the land, while new buildings were being erected and irrigation machinery installed.

Attempts to learn the nature of the contract between Mr. Burgin, Sr., who is said to be a close friend of Gov. Huey P. Long, and the penitentiary officials, were unsuccessful. Rumors which are prevalent, however say that the penitentiary is furnishing the seed, all of the labor and machinery even funds for paying the lease cost, in the hope that it may share in the prospective profits of the venture with Mr. Burgin, Sr.

At the penitentiary headquarter offices in Baton Rouge today, Acting Warden Atlee Steckler said that he was not familiar with the nature of the contract and could give only figures showing the number of convicts used on the farm since operation began on Feb. 22. Clay J. Dugas, manager of the penitentiary, who at penitentiary headquarters was said to be familiar with the contract, could not be reached today by the Times-Picayune reporter.

Regardless of the nature of the contract it is illegal and unconstitutional, legal authorities of this section said. Section 33, Art. 4 of the Constitution, it was pointed out, empowers the Legislature to give authority to employ convicts on public roads, highways, do by authorized (convict farms), and in State control factories under State supervision, and under no condition shall convicts sentenced to the penitentiary (ever be leased or hired to any person, or persons or corporation, private, public, quasi public or boarded save as herein authorized).

Housed in wooden barracks. It was further asserted by attorneys that even should the State contend that the Cloverland tract is now "a convict farm" the penitentiary administration is violating the Constitution in using the convicts there and any contract calling for their use is illegal as the Legislature alone is empowered with authority to create "convict farms" And no such act could have been passed since January 1st.

The prisoners that have been herded on the Cloverland farm are being housed in wooden barracks with a captain and trustees acting as guards. At the penitentiary offices, it was said today, that so far none have escaped.

Back of the mess hall built for the convict laborers, a crude machine shop has been erected. When the Times-Picayune reporter arrived there, a machinist was at work on an irrigation pump, while standing nearby were four farm tractors which the workmen said were the property of the penitentiary and had been brought to the farm on penitentiary trucks.

"How many tractors did they bring over?" He was asked.

"Nine (9) is all, but they are doing the work of ten (10)." The man replied, "you know we are going to put in about 1500 acres of rice here and we work long hours." When questioned further he added that all the laborers on the farm "as far as I know" are convicts.

It could not be learned who is financing the farming project nor who signed the agreement between the penitentiary and Mr. Burgin, Sr., if such a written agreement exists.

## VI

Failing in their efforts to impeach Huey his enemies organized themselves into a group which they called the Constitutional League of Louisiana. It was a very high-sounding title, but empty in real intent. Their aims and purposes as announced in their official journal The Times-Picayune follows:

### LEAGUE OPENS WAR UPON CORRUPTION OF LONG'S REGIME

Governor Driving Louisiana Into Financial and Moral Bankruptcy, Says Declaration of Principles

#### Law To Prohibit Job Bribery Urged

Organization's Aims Entirely Non-partisan and Impersonal, Committee Asserts; Chairman Named

Expressing the belief that, if Governor Huey P. Long is permitted to continue his course of demoralization and waste, bankruptcy of the public treasury and public morals will ensue the executive of the Constitutional League of Louisiana perfected its organization and adopted a declaration of principles at its first meeting Tuesday in the St. Charles Hotel.

The sole and only purpose of the league, the declaration of principles sets forth, is to destroy the debauchery of the Long administration and to bring its perpetrators to justice.

Words are not minced in the declaration of principles, in which various actions of Governor Long are condemned in a powerful arraignment of his unlawful aggressions and unwarranted usurpation of authority.

#### LEGISLATURE UNDERMINED

"In no case in America" it is asserted in the declaration of principles, "has the executive ever before openly sought to destroy the independence of the Legislature, and to completely arrogate to himself its functions. Such is openly and wantonly done by the Governor of Louisiana.

"Never before has any considerable portion of any Legislature had its political morals so corrupted as to openly and shamelessly become the hired men of the executive for lucrative monthly cash, subject to discharge at his pleasure, and notoriously doing his reprehensible bidding, with jest and callous impudence. But it is now being done by very many legislators in Louisiana, some of whom have placed numerous offspring or other relatives under the same degrading lash.

"To prevent the recurrence of this the Constitutional League will support a measure in the Legislature at the first opportunity prohibiting



the holding of any office in the State Government by a member of the General Assembly."

#### CHAIRMAN NAMED

To co-ordinate the work of the league in every parish of the State, a committee on membership and organization was created, with Wilson P. Peterman of St. Mary Parish as the Chairman.

Howard B. Warren of Caddo was elected chairman of the legal Committee and Harry P. Gamble of New Orleans was named chairman of the committee of management and publicity.

Former Governor John M. Parker, President of the League, and Representative George K. Perrault of St. Landry Parish, Chairman of the executive Committee, on behalf of the League issued the following statement:

"By the authority, and under the direction of the Constitutional League of Louisiana, we the executive committee of the League, do hereby formerly announce to the people of Louisiana the reasons for, and purposes of, the formation of the League and principles of government for which it stands.

#### LEAGUE NON-PARTISAN

"1. Appealing as we do, to every patriotic man and woman in this state, regardless of political party or faction for aid and assistance in this great cause we hereby positively and unequivocally pledge ourselves not to promote this constitutional league to be used as an instrument to further the political ambitions or aspirations of any man, or set of men, for any office in this state, from Governor to Constable.

"2. In the constitutional and orderly course of administration of government in Louisiana, periodical elections are held, officers for legislative, judicial and executive positions are selected, sworn, and proceed to the discharge of their public duties.

"3. The course of such administration in Louisiana, as in other states, is successful and to the advantage of the people in a more or less degree, according to the aims, ability, and integrity of chosen servants, subject to such vicissitudes as providence may impose. Never before in the history of the state, when the government has been solely under the direction of white men, has any substantial and representative body of the whole citizenship of the state felt obliged to apprehend such danger in administration of public affairs so grave as to require united and patriotic defense against public disgrace, corruption of the people, and financial disaster.

#### STATE IN DANGER

"4. Such a condition does now confront Louisiana. In such a state of affairs we are impelled to affirm our faith in our former government in those fundamental principles common in every constitution of every state in the union and in the constitution of the United States, namely, that the co-ordinate branches of government — the legislature, the judicial and the executive, shall be equal and each independent of the other. This wise system of checks and balance has given our country the foundation on

which to build, we believe, the most prosperous and enlightened government on earth. Whenever, in any State, transient apathy of the people has permitted grasping power to seriously encroach on this principle, ugly evils have showed heads, and promptly the people awoke and chastised the perpetrators and corrected the fault.

"5. In no case in America has the executive ever before openly sought to destroy the independence of the Legislature, and to completely arrogate himself its functions. Such is openly and wantonly done by the Governor of Louisiana. Never before has any considerable portion of any legislature had its political morals so corrupted as to openly and shamelessly become the hired men of the Executive for lucrative monthly cash, subject to discharge at his pleasure, and notoriously doing his reprehensible bidding, with jest and careless impudence. But it is now being done by very many legislators in Louisiana, some of whom have placed numerous offspring or other relatives under the same degrading lash.

#### OPPOSE OFFICE-HOLDING

"6. To prevent the recurrence of this, the league will support a measure in the State Legislature at the first opportunity prohibiting the holding of any office in the State government by a member of the general assembly.

"7. Never before has any governor dared to publicly declare that the members of the legislative branch of his state are but cards in a deck which he deals as he pleases. But the governor of Louisiana has publicly made this contemptuous declaration.

"8. Destruction of the integrity of the legislative branch by hiring members and their families, is sought to be completed by the scandalous use of executive power, and misuse of public funds indirectly ordering and aiding and abetting the recall of members of the general assembly who have been guilty of no offense other than to exercise their constitutional duties to vote as they saw fit; and who are publicly charged with no fault at all.

"9. We condemn the action of the governor in removing efficient parish registrars of voters in his effort to dominate local election machinery. This constitutional power was intended to be exercised only to protect and preserve white supremacy. His misuse of this power is not only a violation of the spirit of the constitution, but a denial of the right of self-government.

#### KING'S JESTER

"10. Demoralization of administrative departments handling huge funds and having great and necessary public duties is notorious. The trading and sudden and frequent swapping in the offices fixed by law to direct these great departments, amount to public persecution, and is carried on by the governor with the mirth and abandon of a king's jester.

"11. The handling of those departments and their public funds, running into many millions annually, is retained in the exclusive hands of the governor by the appointment of incompetent and servile mercenaries to important offices; and he then uses these funds, and the purposes for which



they are collected from the people to corrupt and undermine public morals; even to attempting to bribe whole communities in the matter of building and locating highways.

"12. To prevent such attempts at public corruption, and to prevent the use of enormous public funds for private purpose, we will support legislation to remove exclusive control of such funds from the hands of any man, the governor, or any other, and take the same out of politics.

"13. It is notorious that scores of employees in the state service, paid by state funds, are made to neglect their public duties, if any they have, to carry on political campaigning for the executive; with the result that the public administration is breaking down, and public works and employments are grossly neglected.

#### BANKRUPTCY NEAR

"14. We aver that if this character of public administration is permitted to continue, demoralization and waste will bankrupt the public treasury; and the evil standards set up will become commonplace and a matter of course, to the bankruptcy of public morals.

"15. We declare that a free and intelligent people, accustomed to a decent and honorable administration of government, cannot and must not tolerate the public debauchery of the existing regime.

"16. We declare that we have no other design than to destroy this debauchery and bring its perpetrators to justice.

"17. We declare that it is our sole purpose to make the sort of administration now current disgraceful in the eyes of the people to the end that they shall never again be deceived into placing in high office convicted slanderers, character destroyers, obscene characters, and any whose greatest talent lies in gross detraction of others, and brazen self-applause.

"18. We declare that the primary consideration is to restore constitutional government and a respect for, and support of, decent and honorable public administration; nevertheless we do also pledge our effort to encourage tax restraints and sane economy, and to prevent the present squandering of public funds for private purposes.

"19. To these ends we dedicate ourselves, and all the associates, firmly believing that a great majority of Louisiana's men and women will approve our action and join us in this greatest and moral governmental battle the state has had since the battle for white supremacy."

The executive committee of the league is composed of twenty-nine members, including chairman Perrault.

The members at large are Wilson T. Peterman, Franklin; B. F. Thompson, Alexandria; Francis T. Knobloch, Thibodeaux; W. H. Hodges, Elm Grove; M. Cary Thompson, Monroe; E. J. Gay, Plaquemine; E. E. Lafaye, Harry Gamble and Esmond Phelps, New Orleans.

The members from the eight congressional districts follow:

First — Charles J. Theard and George Grundmann, New Orleans.

Second — Edward Rightor and J. S. Waterman, New Orleans.

Third — Doctor Charles J. Baker, Thibodeaux, and A. J. Dolden, Abbeville.

Fourth — Judge A. S. Drew, Minden, and H. H. Huckaby, Shreveport.

Fifth — Mason Spencer, Tallulah, and J. H. Trousdale, Monroe.

Sixth — Judge Columbus Reid, Hammond, and Judge C. K. Schwing, Plaquemine.

Seventh — J. G. Medlenka, Crowley, and Frank E. Powell, De Ridder.

Eighth — Dr. Walter F. Couvillon, Marksville, and J. H. Hawthorne, Alexandria.

Representative Perrault is chairman of the committee, and the ex-officio members are President Parker, Vice President Norris C. Williamson, and Secretary Paul E. Chazez.

#### VII

As a part of the League's propaganda the following story appeared September 27, in the news columns of their official medium The Times-Picayune:

### LONG'S FAMILY DRAWS \$75,849 STATE SALARIES

#### Governor and Twenty-four Relatives Shown to Be on Pay Roll

Twenty-four members of Governor Huey P. Long's family are drawing salaries as State jobholders for a total of \$75,849.40 it was announced Thursday in a statement issued by the Constitutional League of Louisiana.

In addition to the twenty-four members of the family on the pay rolls of various state departments, the league statement also points out that Otho Long, a cousin of the governor, has a contract to supply the Louisiana Highway Commission with rubber tires for all automobiles and trucks used by the commission. It is estimated by the league that Otho makes between \$5000 and \$6000 a year through this arrangement.

#### BROTHER GETS \$13,949

Among the officeholders of the Long family is Earl K. Long, brother of the governor, who drew \$13,949.40 as attorney for the inheritance tax collector of Orleans parish during the first twelve months he was in office.

This is the office that Governor Long, during his campaign, pledged himself to abolish.

"Huey P. Long, during the last state campaign, 'the league's statement reads 'had much to say about pie eaters' and trough feeders'. He was then a candidate for office and was denouncing conditions in the state.

"The records show that the Long family connections are the champion



'pie eaters' and 'trough feeders' of the state. No other governor in the history of Louisiana had such a discreditable nepotism record."

### THOSE ON PAY ROLL

The incomplete list of members of the Long family on the state pay rolls follows:

NAME	ANNUAL SALARY
Huey P. Long, governor .....	\$ 7,500.00
Earl Long, brother, inheritance tax attorney, New Orleans .....	13,949.40
W. H. Long, cousin, bureau of criminal identification, Shreveport .....	3,000.00
A. J. Long, uncle, superintendent road marking, highway dept. ....	3,000.00
J. C. Long, cousin, traffic officer highw Dept. ....	1,500.00
J. E. Long, cousin, maintenance division, highway Dept. ....	1,600.00
T. R. Long, cousin, maintenance division highway Dept. ....	1,200.00
R. R. Long, cousin, maintenance division highway Dept. ....	1,200.00
Mrs. Oliver Long Cooper, sister, teacher State Normal college ....	2,700.00
J. M. Nugent, cousin, highway commissioner .....	5,000.00
G. E. Nugent, cousin, gravel inspector highway Dept. ....	1,800.00
W. R. Nugent, cousin, maintenance division, highway Dept. ....	1,200.00
Geo. P. Eagles, cousin, in office of supervisor of public accounts .....	2,400.00
R. L. Eagles, cousin, assistant superintendent highway Dept. ....	2,700.00
B. F. Eubank, cousin, assistant supt. feeble-minded colony .....	3,000.00
S. J. Simmons, cousin, steward East Louisiana Hospital .....	2,800.00
Professor W. W. Tison, cousin, president State Normal college ..	7,200.00
Lee Tison, cousin, maintenance division highway Dept. ....	1,300.00
C. F. Tison, cousin, maintenance division highway Dept. ....	1,400.00
J. W. Tison, cousin, maintenance division, highway Dept. ....	1,400.00
Dr. Roy Wright, cousin, New Orleans Charity Hospital .....	3,000.00
Dave McConnell, brother-in-law, bureau criminal identification ..	2,500.00
Lee McConnell, brother-in-law, custodian Shreveport Hospital ..	2,400.00
A. L. Jones, cousin, timber inspector, highway Dept. ....	2,100.00
TOTAL .....	\$75,849.40

When Huey read the story he remarked that he was sorry he did not have more relatives of the same calibre to put on the payroll.

"I never received a complaint about one of them yet," Huey declared, "and if I do it means their resignation just like anyone else who does not deliver full service on the job."

### VIII

The League raised and spent \$100,000 in a few months. Huey ignored it. He continued clearing up the debris of the past and shaping things up for his program to lift the state out of the mud.

Thus the year ended with little more excitement than the sham battle for possession of the office of conservation commissioner. This episode is related in the columns of the Times-Picayune, December 3, with the usual unfriendly headlines:

### DR. IRION YIELDS TO MAESTRI, FACING THREAT

Guard Mobilized on Long's Order To Oust

### CHIEF JUSTICE O'NIELL DENIES APPEAL

Housecleaning Starts at Once

### New Commissioner Announces Wholesale Dismissal of Conservation Employees

The battle for control of Louisiana Conservation Department ended at 1:30 p. m. Monday when Dr. V. K. IRION relinquished the office of Conservation Commissioner to Robert S. Maestri.

Within a half hour after he took possession of the office by virtue of a supreme court decision, Mr. Maestri dismissed all but two of the office employes.

Refusal by Chief Justice Charles A. O'Niell, of the Louisiana Supreme Court, to grant a writ of supersedeas to Dr. Irion, which would have permitted an appeal to the Federal Courts, averted the use of the militia by Governor Huey P. Long to forcibly remove Dr. Irion from physical possession of the office.

### TROOPS MUSTERED

Acting on instructions received from Governor Long, Adjutant General Raymond H. Fleming assembled 80 members of National Guard artillery and cavalry units at Jackson Barracks, all of whom were in uniform and equipped with rifles prepared to proceed in trucks to the office of the Conservation Department in the Civil Courts Building, Conti and Royal Streets.

Later in the day Adjutant General Fleming described the calling out of the militia as a "test mobilization."



In a written statement issued from his office the Adjutant General made no mention of the National Guardsmen having been called out to assist Mr. Maestri in obtaining possession of the Conservation Commissioner's office but described the sudden calling of troops as a "great success."

Monday night Mr. Maestri issued a statement declaring that all employees of the Conservation Commission, unless they are otherwise notified, "should consider themselves dismissed effective today and the department owes them no salaries."

Earl K. Long, brother of the Governor and one of the attorneys representing Mr. Maestri, informed Dr. Irion shortly after noon Monday that the Militia would be used to remove him from office.

"You have been and are holding this office by main force," Attorney Long told Dr. Irion, "and the militia will be used to remove you."

Attorney Long made this statement while the attorneys for Dr. Irion were waiting for Chief Justice O'Niell to act on their application for a writ of supersedeas to the United States Court.

#### READY TO USE FORCE

Governor Long was of the opinion that Chief Justice O'Niell did not have the authority to grant Dr. Irion a suspensive appeal to the federal courts which would have had the effect of holding Dr. Irion in office for a considerable period of time. It was Governor Long's intention to use the militia in the event that Chief Justice O'Niell had granted the writ.

The only appointment made by Commissioner Maestri Monday was that naming State Senator William A. Duke of the 10th Ward "Assistant to the Commissioner of Conservation."

It was Senator Duke who called together all of the employees in the conservation department's office at 2 p. m. and informed them that they were dismissed, effective at once. Two exceptions were made — William Rankin and Miss Podin Schoenberger of the publicity department.

Senator Duke was attached to the staff of the state supervisor of public accounts until entering the conservation department Monday as Mr. Maestri's assistant.

#### REHEARING DENIED

It was shortly after 11 o'clock Monday morning that the Louisiana Supreme Court handed down its decision, refusing Dr. Irion's application for a rehearing on the court's judgment rendered three weeks ago, which decides that the office of Conservation Commissioner belonged to Mr. Maestri.

A certified copy of the Supreme Court's decision was obtained by Attorneys Earl Long and Leander H. Perez. The attorneys, armed with the certified copies met Mr. Maestri in the Civil Courts Building and immediately proceeded to Dr. Irion's office.

Acting as the spokesman, Attorney Perez said: "Dr. Irion the Supreme Court has denied your application for a rehearing. The Supreme Court, in its judgment has ordered you to forthwith turn over physical possession of the office to Mr. Maestri and Mr. Maestri is here to take the office."

#### IRION ASKS FOR TIME

Standing at the door of his private office, Dr. Irion said: "I hope you will extend me the courtesy of allowing me to see my attorneys before I do anything. I understand my attorneys, Val Irion and Rene Viosca, are in the building."

"Why don't you telephone for them at once," Mr. Perez said. "I will do so," Dr. Irion replied, and requested his telephone operator to get his attorneys on the telephone.

In about five minutes Attorneys Viosca and Dr. Irion appeared.

"We are applying for a writ of supersedeas," Attorney Viosca said and we expect it to be acted on by 2 p. m. It is now 1:45 p. m. so we have only about 15 minutes to wait."

#### FINAL ACTION

The Supreme Court has acted finally in this case," and we have copies here of the court's judgment ordering Dr. Irion to turn the office over to Mr. Maestri." "Well if you take possession of this office now," Mr. Viosca replied you will have possession of it only for 15 minutes in the event that Chief Justice O'Niell signs our application for a writ of supersedeas to the U. S. Courts."

Your application for a writ to the Federal Courts is only another move for delay in relinquishing the office," Mr. Perez returned. "Dr. Irion admits that his term expired in July 1928, about a year and a half ago."

"It is not a move for delay," Mr. Viosca said. "We believe there is a federal question involved in this case and it is up to the Supreme Court of the U. S. to decide the question."

As Attorneys Viosca and Perez argued, the Conservation Commission's office became crowded with spectators, including State Senator Thomas McConnell of the Seventeenth Ward and Richard B. Otero, both of whom are slated for appointments by Mr. Maestri. The narrow hallway leading to the commissioner's office quickly was choked with curious spectators, many of whom hold political office under Governor Long, and employees of various departments in the courts building.

Answering Mr. Viosca's contention that a federal question was involved Mr. Perez said, "The Supreme Court in its decision by a vote of five to one, saw no federal question involved. I believe Mr. Maestri, by the Court's order is entitled to take over this office at once."

"Has Judge Mark M. Boatner of the District Court signed the judgment?" Mr. Viosca asked. "I do not know," Mr. Perez responded. "Well you cannot execute the judgment of the Supreme Court," Mr. Viosca said. "It is the judgment of the District Court that must be executed."

A hurried investigation disclosed that Judge Boatner had not yet signed the judgment but did so as soon as he was asked to sign it by Attorney Perez. It was while Attorneys Perez and Viosca left to ascertain if Judge Boatner had signed the judgment that Earl Long informed Dr. Irion the militia would be used to remove him from the office.

"The militia will be here shortly to enforce the order of the Supreme Court," Mr. Long said.



Attorney Long imparted the information that Governor Long had been advised of the Court's decision, and the application for the writ of supersedeas. The Governor, Earl Long said had ordered the militia mobilized and to proceed to the Conservation Commissioner's Office. While attorneys for Mr. Maestri were awaiting the arrival of the Militia, Attorneys Viosca and Irion appeared and announced that Chief Justice O'Niell had refused to sign the application for a writ of supersedeas.

"Justice O'Niell's refusal," Attorneys Viosca announced, ends the case. Dr. Irion will now turn over the office to Mr. Maestri." Mr. Maestri stepped over to the Commissioner's desk. Dr. Irion shook his hand, and wished him luck in the office.

"Good day gentlemen," Dr. Irion said, as he picked up his hat and overcoat, and walked out of the office followed by his attorneys.

Mr. Maestri was overwhelmed with congratulations. Four large baskets of flowers, one from Governor Long were carried in and placed on his desk.

Mr. Maestri shook hands with all comers for about five minutes, then forced his way through the crowd, and left the building accompanied by Earl Long. "Senator Duke will be in charge" Mr. Maestri announced, "until I return." Shortly after Mr. Maestri's departure Governor Long appeared.

#### ALL DISMISSED

Fifteen minutes later, Senator Duke ordered all employed in the office to assemble. When they had gathered outside the door of the commissioner's office, Senator Duke announced: "You are all dismissed, effective at once."

Auditor Rankin and Miss Schoenberger later were excepted from this order and remained on duty until the office closed at 4 P. M.

The office employes immediately began packing up their personal belongings, and quietly moved out.

As they left the job seekers moved in. Mr. Maestri returned from lunch but quickly left again, accompanied by Attorney Perez. He announced he was going to the Banks to ascertain how much money the Conservation Department has on deposit. Mr. Maestri did not return from this mission. He telephoned he would not be at his office until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Governor Long, who spent more than an hour in the Commissioner's office announced that an audit of the Conservation Department's books would be made to ascertain its financial condition.

"We are going to find out where we are," Governor Long said, and we are going to get rid of all those "possum watchers and coon chasers."

#### JOBS SLATED

From what could be learned from unofficial sources. J. B. Dauenhauer, former sheriff of Jefferson Parish, will be appointed as chief of the enforcement division. Senator McConnell it is said will be put in charge of the department's fleet of boats.

Philip Gehlbach senior captain of the department's boats who recently

has been serving as supervisor of enforcement in St. Tammany Parish was dismissed by Dr. Irion Monday morning, but expects to be reinstated by Mr. Maestri. "Irion knew I am a friend of Mr. Maestri's," Mr. Gehlbach said, "and we haven't got along for some time." Mrs. Lucy Powell Russell, Secretary to the Conservation Commissioner since the administration of Commissioner M. L. Alexander forestalled her dismissal by Senator Duke by writing her resignation to Dr. Irion before he left the office. She walked out as Dr. Irion left.

While troops were being mobilized at Jackson Barracks, Adjutant General Fleming declined to give reasons for the sudden mobilization advising inquirers to "go down to the barracks and see what's going on."

#### TEST MOBILIZATION

After the militia was demobilized the adjutant general issued a statement describing the maneuver as a "test mobilization."

"A test mobilization was held at Jackson Barracks this afternoon with great success," Adjutant General Fleming said. "Detachments were ordered to mobilize from three of the field artillery units, headquarters battery and combat train Battery A and Battery B from Troop 1 of the 108th Cavalry.

"The men mobilized very rapidly, going from their normal business occupations to Jackson Barracks in a very short time. This demonstrates very efficiently what could be done in case of an emergency. Officers and men carry lists and pass out information very quickly. When it is realized that this test was called during the period of a busy day, one can readily appreciate the real efficiency of the National Guard troops. Besides the mobilization of detachments from the three Batteries and from Troop 1 of the 108th Cavalry the mechanics at Jackson Barracks were called on to prepare motor transportation. Automobiles and trucks were available within 30 minutes. The men were all equipped with rifles, ammunition and in uniform, and ready to move, within two hours and a half."

#### FLEMING GRATIFIED

"The Adjutant General states that he will make a report to the war department of this test as a practical example of what National Guard troops can be expected to do in case of an emergency. At some future date, it may be practical to hold a mobilization test of the entire Guard. As a matter of fact, the holding of mobilizations of the entire National Guard at stated periods as a practical scheme of getting troops into action is being discussed among a good many military men. Governor Long upon having the facts of the mobilization reported to him, was delighted, and expressed his appreciation of the fine efficiency of the troops concerned."

#### WRIT IS REFUSED

A rehearsing on the judgment that ousted Dr. Irion from the office of Commissioner of Conservation was refused at 11:10 a. m. and an hour later Chief Justice Charles A. O'Niell refused to sign a writ of supersedeas to the Supreme Court at Washington.

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Dr. Irion was an usurper and in unlawful possession of the office and commanded him to surrender the office to Maestri. The ousted official then applied for a rehearing and submitted briefs in an effort to show that the decision of the High Court was contrary to the law and evidence adduced at the hearing.

In February Governor Long declared there was a vacancy in the office and commissioned Mr. Maestri on February 19. Dr. Irion and his attorneys argued that his term of office did not terminate until July 1 and when Mr. Maestri appeared at the Department of Conservation, Dr. Irion acting on the advice of his lawyers refused to recognize the commission or surrender the office.

At the request of the Governor, Attorney General Percy Saint instituted an intrusion into the office suit. Leandee Perez who was one of the Governor's attorneys at his impeachment trial, was named chief counsel. He was assisted by Earl Long, brother of the Governor, and Robert Davey. When the suit was first filed, Paul Habans, Commissioner of Public Service was one of the Governor's special attorneys in the ouster proceedings.

At the trial of the suit before Judge Mark M. Boatner in the Civil District Court, Edward Rightor, Rene Vioca and Val Irion, attorneys for Dr. Irion filed technical exceptions. They alleged that Maestri's commission was invalid because Governor Long failed to obtain the advice and consent of the Senate in appointing a successor to Dr. Irion. The exceptions were argued at length and Judge Boatner took the case under advisement. A few days later the exceptions were maintained and the ouster suit dismissed. Judge Boatner ruled that the advice and consent of the Senate was necessary before the Commissioner of Conservation could be appointed.

The Governor's attorneys then appealed to the Supreme Court and tried to obtain a hearing before the Supreme Court adjourned for the vacation term last July. A majority of the Court held the advice and consent of the Senate was not necessary.

Dr. Irion had been in the court almost continuously since he succeeded Joseph Everett as commissioner in 1925. After the death of the late Governor Henry L. Fuqua, O. H. Simpson, who became Governor, charged that the affairs of the Conservation Department were mismanaged and the funds squandered. He demanded the resignation of Dr. Irion and it was refused.

Governor Simpson, through Attorney General Saint and Hugh M. Wilkinson special counsel instituted ouster proceedings. While the case was pending before Judge Boatner, Governor Simpson commissioned Major Frank T. Payne, former chairman of the Louisiana Highway Commission and director of the oyster division of the Conservation Department, as Commissioner of the Department. During the night Major Payne took possession of the office by force and when Dr. Irion and members of his force attempted to gain admittance to the office they were prevented by criminal sheriffs at the office by George Williams, criminal sheriff.

While the office was being guarded Major Payne applied to the Court for an injunction to prevent Dr. Irion from interfering with him in the

exercise of his duties as Commissioner of the department. The injunction was refused and Dr. Irion was restored to his office.

The trial of the first ouster suit before Judge Boatner continued for several weeks and then he was ousted from office. On appeal the Supreme Court reversed Judge Boatner.

This case is cited as an example of the subterfuge and ingenuity exercised by the opposing forces in Louisiana politics in an attempt to dominate and control the situation even after defeat at the polls so as to handicap Huey Long.

The facts presented by a bitterly antagonistic newspaper plainly vindicate Huey and eloquently acquit him of any charge of unfairness.

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## IX

With this last victory Huey was now ready to launch his major campaign, the long program of much needed state improvements. So after months of opposition and using every art and wile at his command he finally put through his huge appropriations for Paved Highways, free Bridges, free School Books, better Schools, a new State Capital, a new Governor's Mansion, a greater State University, new Buildings for public institutions, such as Hospitals and Asylums, and numerous other projects which have made Louisiana one of the most progressive States.

Huey spent more than \$100,000,000. The expenditures were supervised and approved by a committee of citizens. But, despite this fact, his political adversaries hollered "thief," "burglar," "crook," "grafter," "liar."

Huey paid them no heed. He continued on his way. He ran for United States Senator and was elected by a huge vote. He held both jobs, Senator and Governor, until he elected his successor to the governorship, O. K. Allen, lifetime friend from the place of his birth Winfield.

There are those who say he has no sentiment. That he is cruel and ruthless. But he made his friend, one he could trust, Governor. Huey is all sentiment. He is all heart. He is too good for the foes who tried to put an end to him, the lying hypocrites who pose as benefactors of the people, the tricky parasites in the underworld, and the pious-frauds who try to keep the people submerged while feathering their own nests.

Doing all he could for Louisiana the Kingfish now turned his attention and energies to national affairs. He made the United States senate his new arena in fighting for the rights and liberties of the people, even to the extent of directly criticizing the President at the peak of his popularity.

As a step towards restoring the wealth of the nation to the people Huey launched his Share-Our-Wealth Society. A statement of its aims and purposes as issued by Huey himself follows:



(Reprint from Congressional Record — not printed at Government expense)

## PEOPLE OF AMERICA: —

In every community get together at once and organize a:

# Share Our Wealth Society

**Motto: Every Man A King**

### PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM

1. To limit poverty by providing that every deserving family shall share in the wealth of America for not less than one-third of the average wealth, thereby to possess not less than \$5,000 free of debt.
2. To limit fortunes to such a few million dollars as will allow the balance of the American people to share in the wealth and profits of the land.
3. Old Age Pensions of \$30. per month to persons over 60 years of age who do not earn as much as \$1,000. per year or who possess less than \$10,000. in cash or property, thereby to remove from the field of labor, in times of unemployment, those who have contributed their share to the public service.
4. To limit the hours of work to such an extent as to prevent overproduction and to give the workers of America some share in the recreations, conveniences and luxuries of life.
5. To balance agricultural production with what can be sold and consumed according to the laws of God, which have never failed.
6. To care for the Veterans of our wars.
7. Taxation to run the government to be supported, first, by reducing big fortunes from the top, thereby to improve the country and provide employment in public works whenever agricultural surplus is such as to render unnecessary, in whole or in part, any particular crop.

### SIMPLE AND CONCRETE — NOT AN EXPERIMENT

To share our wealth by providing for every deserving family to have one-third of the average wealth would mean that, at the worst, such a family could have a fairly comfortable home, an automobile and a radio, with other reasonable home conveniences, and a place to educate their children. Through sharing the work, that is, by limiting the hours of toil, so that all would share in what is made and produced in the land, every family would have enough coming in every year to feed, clothe and provide a fair share of the luxuries of life to its members. Such is the result to a family, at the worst.

From the worst to the best there would be no limit to opportunity. One might become a millionaire or more. There would be a chance for talent to make a man big because enough would be floating in the land to give brains its chance to be used. As it is, no matter how smart a man may be, every-

thing is tied up in so few hands that no amount of energy or talent has a chance to gain any of it.

Would it break up big concerns? No. It would simply mean that, instead of one man getting all the one concern made, that there might be 1,000 or 10,000 persons sharing in such excess fortune, any one of whom, or all of whom, might be millionaires and over.

I ask somebody in every city, town, village and farm community of America to take this as my personal request to call a meeting of as many neighbors and friends as will come to it, to start a Share-Our-Wealth Society. Elect a President and a Secretary and charge no dues. The meeting can be held at a Court House, in some Town Hall or Public building, or in the home of someone.

It does not matter how many will come to the first meeting. Get a Society organized, if it has only 2 members. Then let us get to work quick — quick — quick to put an end by law to people starving and going naked in this land of too much to eat and too much to wear. The case is all with us. It is the word and work of the Lord. The Gideons had but two men when they organized. Three Tailors of Tooley Street drew the Magna Charta of England. The Lord says:

**"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."**

We propose to help our people into the place where the Lord said was their rightful own and no more.

We have waited long enough for these financial masters to do these things. They have promised and promised. Now we find our country Ten Billion Dollars further in debt on account of the depression and big leaders even propose to get 90% of that out of the hides of the common people in the form of a sales tax.

There is nothing wrong with the United States. We have more food than we can eat. We have more clothes and things out of which to make clothes than we can wear. We have more houses and lands than the whole 120,000,000 can use if they all had good homes. So what is the trouble? Nothing except that a handful of men have everything and the balance of the people have nothing if their debts were paid. There should be "Every Man a King" in this land flowing with milk and honey, instead of the Lords of Finance at the top and slaves and peasants at the bottom.

Now be prepared for the slurs and snickers of some high ups when you start your local Spread Our Wealth Society. Also when you call your meeting be on your guard for some smart aleck tool of the interests to come in and ask questions. Refer such to me for an answer to any question and I will send you a copy. Spend your time getting the people to work to save their children and to save their homes, or to get a home for those who have already lost their own.

To explain the title, motto and principles of such a society, I give the full information, viz: —

TITLE: "Share Our Wealth Society" is simply to mean that God's creatures on this lovely American continent have a right to share in the



wealth they have created in this country. They have the right to a living with the conveniences and some of the luxuries of this life so long as there are too many or enough for all. They have a right to raise their children in a healthy, wholesome atmosphere and to educate them, rather than to face the dread of their undernourishment and sadness by being denied a real life.

MOTTO: "Every Man a King" conveys the great plan of God and of the Declaration of Independence which said: "All men are created equal." It conveys that no one man is the Lord of another, but that from the head to the foot of every man is carried his sovereignty.

Now to cover the principles of the Share Our Wealth Society, I give them in order:

#### 1. To Limit Poverty.

We propose that a deserving family shall share in our wealth of America at least for one-third the average. An average family is slightly less than 5 persons. The number has become less during depression. The United States total wealth in normal times is about Four Hundred Billion Dollars, or about \$15,000 to the family. If there were a fair distribution of our things in America, our national wealth would be three or four times the Four Hundred Billions, because a free, circulating wealth is worth many times more than wealth congested and frozen into a few hands, there is the average of \$15,000. to the family. We say that we will limit poverty of the deserving people. One-third of the average wealth to the family, or \$5,000. is a fair limit to the depths we will allow any one man's family to fall. None too poor, none too rich.

#### 2. To Limit Fortunes.

The wealth of this land is tied up in a few hands. It makes no difference how many years the laborer has worked, nor does it make any difference how many dreary rows the farmer has plowed, the wealth he has created is in the hands of manipulators. They have not worked any more than many other people who have nothing. Now we do not propose to hurt these very rich persons. We simply say that when they reach the place of millionaires, they have everything they can use and they ought to let somebody else have something. As it is, 1-10th of 1 per cent of the bank depositors own nearly half of the money in the banks, leaving 99 9-10 of bank depositors owning the balance. Then 2-3 of the people do not even have a bank account. The lowest estimate is that 4% of the people own 85% of our wealth. The people cannot ever come to light unless we share our wealth, hence the Society to do it.

#### 3. Old Age Pensions:

Everyone has begun to realize something must be done for our old people who work out their lives, feed and clothe children and are left penniless in their declining years. They should be made to look forward to their mature years for comfort rather than fear. We propose that, at the age of 60, every person should begin to draw a pension from our government of \$30 per months, unless the person of 60 or over has an income of over \$1,000 per year or is worth \$10,000, which is 2-3 of the average wealth in America, even figured on a basis of it being frozen into a few hands. Such

a pension would retire from labor those persons who keep the rising generations from finding employment.

#### 4. To Limit the Hours of Work:

This applies to all industry. The longer hours the human family can rest from work, the more it can consume. It makes no difference how many labor-saving devices we may invent, just as long as we keep cutting down the hours and sharing what those machines produce, the better we become. Machines can never produce too much if everybody is allowed his share, and if it ever got to the point that the human family could work only 15 hours per week and still produce enough for everybody, then praised be the name of the Lord. Heaven would be coming nearer to earth. All of us could return to school a few months every year to learn some things they have found out since we were there; all could be gentlemen; "Every Man a King."

#### 5. To Balance Agricultural Production with Consumption:

About the easiest of all things to do when financial masters and market manipulators step aside and let work the law of the Lord. When we have a supply of anything that is more than we can use for a year or two, just stop planting that particular crop for a year either in all the country or in a part of it. Let the government take over and store the surplus for the next year. If there is not something else for the farmers to plant or some other work for them to do to live on for the year when the crop is banned, then let that be the year for the public works to be done in the section where the farmers need work. There is plenty of it to do and taxes off of the big fortunes at the top will supply plenty of money without hurting anybody. In time we would have the people not struggling to raise so much when all were well fed and clothed. Distribution of wealth almost solves the whole problem without further trouble.

#### 6. To Care for Veterans of Our Wars:

A restoration of all rights taken from them by recent laws and further, a complete care of any disabled veteran for any ailment, who has no means of support.

#### 7. Taxation:

Taxation is to be levied first at the top for the government's support and expenses. Swollen fortunes should be reduced principally through taxation. The government should be run through revenues it derives after allowing persons to become well above millionaires and no more. In this manner, the fortunes will be kept down to reasonable size and at the same time all the works of the government kept on a sound basis, without debts.

Things cannot continue as they now are. America must take one of three choices, viz:—

1. A monarchy ruled by financial masters — a modern feudalism.
2. Communism.
3. Sharing of the wealth and income of the land among all the people, by limiting the hours of toil and limiting the size of fortunes.



The Lord prescribed the last form. It would preserve all our grains, share them among our population, guarantee a greater country and a happy people.

The need for such Share Our Wealth Society is to spread the truth among the people and to convey their sentiment to their members of Congress.

Whenever such a local Society has been organized, please send me notice of the same so that I may send statistics and data which such local Society can give out in their community, either through word of mouth in meetings, by circulars or, when possible, in local newspapers.

Please understand that the Wall Street controlled public press will give you as little mention as possible and will condemn and ridicule your efforts. Such makes necessary the organizations to Share the Wealth of this land among the people, which the financial masters are determined they will not allow to be done. Where possible, I hope those organizing a society in one community, will get in touch with their friends in other communities and get them to organize societies in them. Anyone can have copies of this article reprinted in circular form to distribute wherever they may desire, or, if they want me to have them printed for them, I can do so and mail them to any address of 60c per hundred or \$4. per thousand copies.

I introduced in Congress and supported other measures to bring about the sharing of our wealth when I first reached the United States Senate in January, 1932. The main efforts to that effect polled about 6 votes in the Senate at first. Last spring my plan polled the votes of nearly 20 U. S. Senators, becoming dangerous in proportions to the financial lords. Since then I have been abused in the newspapers and over the radio for everything under the sun. Now that I am pressing this program the lies and abuse in the big newspapers and over the radio are a matter of daily occurrence. It will all become greater with this effort. Expect that. Meantime, go ahead with the work to organize a Share Our Wealth Society.

Sincerely,  
**HUEY P. LONG,**  
 U. S. Senator.

I will go to people who know me and who personally know of the work I have done, for the money that it will take for the expenses I will have to bear in this work, because, if any such things as dues were collected from members for such expenses, the thieves of Wall Street and their newspapers and radio liars would immediately say that I had a scheme to get money.

**HUEY P. LONG.**

## X

As previously indicated the Share-Our Wealth Society emanated from Huey's aim to bring equality to all humanity. This fact is emphasized in his book "Every Man A King." This volume is very illuminating and clearly presents the real Huey P. Long. A review written at the time of its first edition and published in the New Orleans Democrat follows:

### "Every Man A King"

At last we have an authentic story of Huey P. Long, written by himself, in the autobiography "Every Man A King."

Undoubtedly the title was inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's immortal lines: "The world is so full of a number of things we all should be happy as kings."

That sums up Huey's philosophy and gives the spirit of the book. No person can read it without becoming a confirmed follower of the author in his aim to re-distribute the concentrated wealth of the country from the hands of a few to the homes of the many.

From the very beginning this great story rings with sincerity and immediately captures the interest of the reader. It also proves beyond the slightest doubt that Huey's fight against horded wealth is not an overnight ballyhoo but a life-long battle started when he first entered public life fifteen years ago. This fact is borne out in a letter published in the New Orleans Item, March 1, 1918, which outlines Huey's challenge against the concentration of wealth. The text of the letter is almost identical to Senator Long's present-day speeches.

The book also relates how Oscar K. Allen, a life-long friend, financed Huey's first campaign for Railroad Commissioner in 1918 with a loan of \$500 which the present governor borrowed from the Winnfield bank. It also tells how in 1919 the Standard Oil prevented Huey from becoming a millionaire after he had secured equities and options on numerous independent oil wells in the Shreveport area by refusing to transport the independent oil in the company's pipe-lines.

This started Huey on the greatest career in the history of American politics and resulted in the private embargo being lifted several years later after the pipelines were declared common carriers by legislative action.

Then there is the interesting account of how Huey helped swing North Louisiana for Parker in 1920 and how the latter after inauguration as governor disregarded his pledges to Huey by ignoring his pre-election promises to the people, including legislation against the oil trust pipelines and for a severance tax.

Other intensely interesting chapters reveal the facts behind the telephone rate case in which Huey won a rebate of \$467,000 for the people and saved the telephone users more than a million dollars a year in reduced rates; the fight against the Shreveport street railway in which Huey emerged victor with a five-cent streetcar fare; the victory for natural gas



for New Orleans; the free school books; the paved highways; the free bridges; the new state buildings; the defeat of Ransdell; the election of O. K. Allen; the sinking of Broussard; the rehabilitation of the hospitals and asylums; the complete rout of his enemies; and finally, his national fight for the re-distribution of concentrated wealth.

One chapter which will be read with avid interest by his erstwhile enemies is that concerning Huey's own version of the impeachment proceedings. The details of this chapter are well worth the reasonable price of the book, which Huey insisted in holding at one dollar instead of five dollars as his close advisors are said to have urged. Huey's aim, of course, being merely to spread the truth and not make a huge profit from the heavy sale of "Every Man A King."

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Editorial Note: The Hon. Hugh S. Suthon, eminent New Orleans jurist, after reading the fore-going review prior to publication said: "It would be appropriate to add one more paragraph stating that the exceptional genius of Senator Long and his splendid service to the state and nation is well demonstrated in the honorary degree of doctor of laws conferred upon him by Loyola University. To receive such an honor the recipient must necessarily be a man of merit. That Senator Long has been of extra-ordinary service to his people is beyond question. In my humble opinion he is the greatest governor we have ever had and one of the greatest statesmen in the history of the United States."

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In concluding this review, we wish to state that we heartily concur in Judge Suthon's opinion. Furthermore, we believe that Louisiana and the United States would reap still greater benefits from the energies of Huey P. Long if instead of trying to tear him down the leading men would join hands in trying to build him up. With such encouragement Huey would accomplish wonders and undoubtedly eventually reach the highest post of honor in this nation, which would mean that the people of the entire United States would enjoy all the advantages now showered upon Louisiana. It would mean that this wonderful country would come back into its own as the leading democracy of the world, a position it once held before the World War, when all classes received equal consideration in the political administration of this Great Nation.

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## XI

Many persons have wondered how Huey developed such personal power. They ask each other the secret of this great man's success. The answer to their question is contained in a speech delivered in the United States Senate by Senator Long, March 5, 1935. An excerpt from this speech as published in the national newspaper "The American Progress," follows:

"Mr. President, I am not undertaking to answer the charge that I am ignorant. It is true. I am an ignorant man. I have had no college education. I have not even had a high school education. But the thing that takes me far in politics is that I do not have to color what comes into my mind and into my heart. I say it unvarnished. I say it without veneer. I have not the learning to do otherwise, and therefore my ignorance is often not detected.

"I know the hearts of the People because I have not colored my own. I know when I am right in my own conscience. I do not talk one way in the cloakroom and another way out here. I do not talk one way back there in the hills of Louisiana and another way here in the Senate.

"I have one language. Ignorant as it is, it is the universal language within the sphere in which I operate. Its simplicity gains pardon for my lack of letters and education.

"Nonetheless my voice will be the same as it has been. Patronage will not change it. Fear will not change it. Persecution will not change it. It cannot be changed while people suffer. The only way it can be changed is to make the lives of these people decent and respectable. No one will ever hear political opposition out of me when that is done."

## XII

Probably the best brief review of the aims, achievements, character and career of Huey P. Long is contained in a characteristic radio address delivered by Huey himself over his favorite station WDSU at New Orleans. This address as reported by the New Orleans Item-Tribune, (Sunday, April 14th, 1935) often opposed to Huey, follows:

## LONG ON THE AIR

### Talks On Many Subjects

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Speaking for three hours over WDSU and a Shreveport station, Senator Huey Long last night covered familiar ground and, in answering questions



at the end of his talk told friends there was nothing new he could say, having been making speeches and writing newspaper articles since he was a boy.

He evaded questions as to policemen and firemen's pay, and refused to reply, except by referring the query back to its source, to a question on whether the legislature will met Monday.

Senator Long began his address with the usual request to listeners to summon their friends to the radio, and the singing of the song, "Every Man a King."

He gave a review of the telephone rate reduction case in which he appeared as attorney for the Public Service Commission, claiming that the reduction amounted to \$661,000.

### ELECTRIC RATES NEXT

Reductions of the New Orleans electricity rates, he said, are next on the program.

"You have been told not to let any outsiders come in and wake up the saints and disturb ancient institutions," he declared. The free bridge and free schoolbook, innovations, however, he said, resulted in no catastrophies, and New Orleans public schools now depend on state money. Insurance rates at the port of New Orleans," he declared, "were reduced under him from \$1.25 to 26 cents per \$1000, and he was head of the organization which upset the rate schedule which was preferential to Galveston.

The port of New Orleans and other ports, he continued, have suffered because of the collapse of international commerce in cotton, wheat and meat, in which foreign countries are now competing, while sold in greatly reduced quantities abroad. Only his efforts, he said, kept the port alive at all.

"I'm going to tell you what a menace the bankers of New Orleans have been," he said, "and what the 'Assassination of Commerce' has done to the city."

He read what he said was evidence offered by A. B. Patterson, president of the New Orleans Public Service Inc., in the rate case.

This showed that from 1930 back, sales per person in cities like Kansas City amounted to \$875 per year, a figure corresponding with the record for other cities, going down to \$525 in San Antonio, and \$500 in other places, but in New Orleans only \$350 per person, the lowest in any city in America. This small volume of business, he said, existed under "ring government" in New Orleans.

### DRIVES AT A. OF C.

The Association of Commerce, he averred, failed to advertise any of the improvements he brought, but said he was wrecking the state.

New Orleans has no industries to speak of, he said, not primarily for lack of foreign capital, but because the banks in New Orleans were interwoven with politics and outside financial control and "blasted" anyone who tried to develop a business here, in order to take over his business.

Railroad switching charges, he said, were so high that no business could pay them, so business men would attempt to reduce them, and such "rail-

road lawyers" as J. Blanc Monroe, "who has also a high muckety-muck in the banks," would have them harassed financially. Forty businesses were killed in that way, he said.

Maximum switching costs in Houston are \$8, he continued, while similar service here might cost \$50, more than to ship the same carload from Kansas City to New Orleans.

The banks, he said, had loaned on good collateral, but the depression depreciated values. Although no bankers ever voted for him, he continued, he tried to help them, trying to get the President to guarantee deposits without closing the banks, conferring with him during the crisis several times.

### TELLS OF HIS EFFORTS

"But it was very hard to get Mr. Roosevelt to see," he continued. "They brought in Mr. Roosevelt's bank law March 5, without showing it to anybody for more than a few minutes before it was read. I saw that he had left out the state banks, like the Canal, Whitney Trust, Hibernia, American and most of the banks in Louisiana. I wrote an amendment while the clerk was reading the law allowing the state banks to reopen. I fought for that for two hours and lost, but I went back the next day and the next, and I went to President Roosevelt who told me everything would be all right the next day. But they fought me like 10,000 wild Indians. So I went back again and again, until finally I said I would make my fight on the floor of the Senate. The upshot was they sent down an amendment taking care of the state banks, and there would not be a state bank open without by fight.

"They said the Whitney bank could open, but refused to let the Canal open. They gave the Hibernia bank a permit to open. Thereupon I asked all the other banks not to open that day until I could get them to permit the Canal bank to open and arrange for the other banks to take care of the Interstate.

"Mr. Hecht said he would not dare let the Hibernia bank open before the others, because it would be wrecked. Mr. Legier of the American was also willing.

"I spent several thousands of dollars telephoning those nights, but Mr. Monroe of the Whitney said 'Oh, no, we will open,' and that killed the chances for the others, although I got the ruling a few days later which would have enabled them all to open. The only man in New Orleans today who is responsible for the Canal bank not opening up and paying 100 cents on the dollar, and the Hibernia and the Interstate is none other than J. Blanc Monrie, this railroad lawyer whom they used to drive industry after industry out of the city.

### "NEFARIOUS CHOCTAW CLUB"

"He has ruled one way and then another on the same law. He has been wrapped up with the nefarious Choctaw club, and he is sitting up now like a duke or lord, and if it was not for me they would strangle out what little



life there is left. That is the situation. New Orleans has been destroyed from within.

"For many years I have desisted from stating these facts publicly, but it has gotten so that this gang of political boodlers, with this Blanc Monroe as an intermediary between the lowest form of politics and rapacious finance, that we can't get our own capital loaned to our people. Materials leave here and are manufactured and shipped back and sold here."

He repeated here the retail sales figures.

"You need a dose of Huey Long in the city hall, although I haven't time to do it myself. I could have a friend of mine in there now, but I'm not coming in until the business people see they need me."

### ATTACKS OTHERS

He then launched into an attack on Mayor Walmsley, John Sullivan, Ulic Burke, "Co" Desmare and others.

"They started around here giving me silverware and ended almost giving me the gate — or the penitentiary; I could take my choice," he continued.

He described the impeachment proceedings: "I laid about me with a broomstick, and when I got through there were plenty of bloody heads and I was on top."

He said he had liberated the police. "We have taken the police department out of politics," he said, "and it will never be used as a means of political persecution. I started out to give the city a police department that wasn't under me."

He reviewed the organization of his police board. When the members themselves attacked the constitutionality of their appointments, he said, he reorganized the board again and put Long men in. "So we've got a board and we have taken the police department and fire department out of politics. Of course they did plenty of things they shouldn't when they were under the hammer of Walmsley and the ring, but I told them they could be honest and lawful now, and nothing in their past would be held against them, and they said they were glad."

### NOT ONE HIRED OR FIRED

"We haven't hired or fired a man. They arrested my own brother and locked him up all night in a filthy cell and never filed charges against him."

### BOASTS HIS PLAN

He then veered into a declaration that the Huey Long plan was sweeping the country, and was receiving vast publicity although the New Orleans newspapers only said that he had had words with a man who didn't like the color of his hair.

"It looks like the Picayune is going to put the old Item out of business,"

he said. "We're going to let them do it, then we're going to throw the Picayune to the Blue Buzzard, and stew it and fry it to a turn."

"Mr. Roosevelt has every man he can spare out making speeches against the Huey Long Share the Wealth Society."

"I haven't got time to pay attention to all this small fry, these Cabinet members. They have long since ceased to say that what I want can't be done and now they say I will be a menace in the Presidential campaign. There is only one way they can keep me out of the campaign, by putting in my program. It's going to be a sad time for them when the presidential election comes if they don't."

He said they had been assuming that there was no choice but the old political parties. "We are liable to take over both the Republican and Democratic parties. We may put share-the-wealth candidates and win in both primaries."

"We are going to have more members than both parties. I was elected Governor without either of the old factions in Louisiana. We are liable to take both parties and unite them, calling our organization the Share-the-Wealth society, Democratic branch, Republican branch and independent."

He then repeated the share-the-wealth promises.

### AS FOR DUST STORMS

He said such calamities as dust storms, floods and other acts of God could be taken care of "very easily." He said the dust storms were caused by lowering the water level. The United States Army engineers plan, he declared, is a completion of the plan his board of engineers inaugurated, to have reservoirs in the North for irrigation and power, eliminating the dust storms and reducing the water level here so much that the levees could be eliminated. "and you could drive along and see the river."

That would also take care of unemployment, he added.

He said there was no agricultural surplus, the country never having produced as much food as the department of agriculture declared was necessary for proper diet, nor enough cotton to clothe the people properly.

Present regulation, he said, was not on the basis of what was needed, but how much money there was to buy, while the money was "in the hands of the Morgans and Baruchs."

"It isn't a government, it's St. Vitus' dance," he concluded.

### QUOTES FROM BIBLE

Under the Long program, he declared, if surpluses in the agricultural goods were ever built up the country would stop growing for a year, letting the ground lie fallow and concentrating on public works.

He said that Franklin Delano Roosevelt, lingering over the name, had spent more than \$1,000,000,000 more than all government expenditures from Washington to President Wilson. Private debts, too, he said were go-



ing up and up so that the total now is more than \$265,000,000,000, including both public and private obligations.

Quoting the Lord's prayer and passages from Deuteronomy from the King James Bible, which he called "the official version of the Bible," he said it was defiance of God's law not to forgive debts every seven years and not to redistribute the wealth every 50 years. The founders of the republic, he continued, gave similar counsel.

He said he spoke in Philadelphia at a meeting last week in a hall which held 25,000 and had never been filled, and 30 minutes before he was to speak the doors had to be closed to keep the auditorium from being overcrowded.

He began answering questions.

He evaded a question on when the firemen and police would be paid, saying that as long as the Ring government was in power that was in doubt, and he did not know when it would be taken over.

#### ABOUT STREET CARS

He said he could not do anything about reducing carfares because fewer people were riding street cars, which he said were "antiquated".

He denounced a suggestion for a sales tax because he said the poor people would have to pay it.

He dismissed a suggestion for a free port at New Orleans, saying it was already the nearest free in the country.

Asked what happened to the Bayou St. John beautification bill to which the police bill was attached as a rider. The project was lost by the Ring government, he said.

He told a woman inquirer that she would be entitled to the homestead tax exemption whether the house was in hers or her husband's name. He said he did not know how much the exemption would be this year, but would eventually reach \$2000. The exemption fund is being built up from the proceeds of lieu taxes, he explained, some of which are still tied up in court. "We are going to give the law a liberal interpretation and include everybody," he said.

To a query about the Home Owners' Loan association policies, he said the agency was in the hands of crooks and thugs and he could not predict what they would do.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

He said rising gasoline prices were beyond his control.

Asked about Motorcycle Policeman Escude, suspended after arresting his son for speeding, Senator Long said another policeman with Escude tried to persuade Escude that the boys were driving only 20 miles an hour.

In addition, he declared Escude had "waylaid his house several nights"

that a bullet was fired into his home, and that its calibre corresponded to that of the policeman's gun.

Asked about the bonus, he said he was one of the men who could have got over there and faced those bullets, but "preferred not to do it."

To "two admirers," he said he could not say anything they had not heard him talk about.

To "The Associated Press," he evaded a query about a special session of the legislature reported called for Monday.

In answer to a question whether NRA regulations should be followed by small business men, he said he thought the legislation was unconstitutional, and if he were running a business he would "tell them to go to hell."

One W. S. Johnson congratulated him on the work he had done for the Negroes and for making it possible for Negroes to register. He answered that he had not changed the registration laws.

From this review you can plainly see how the press tries to twist Huey's words so as to put him in a bad light with the people. It also proves that truth is so inflexible that it cannot be bent to suit the whims of the exploiters of the people.



### XIII

In addition to the radio Huey finds the circular one of the most effective means in conveying his messages to the people. These circulars are printed in large type on white book paper and delivered to the door of every person in Louisiana. It is estimated that Huey can write a circular and have it distributed throughout the state within twenty-four hours. A typical circular as issued recently by Huey follows:

## TAKE THE MONEY

### VOTE AS YOU PLEASE!

To the People of Louisiana: —

In about the year 1920 or 1921 a very prominent lady social worker came to see me in my office at Shreveport. She said to me about these words —

"Listen! I've just come here to look at you and ask if you really in your heart mean the things you are saying. Tell me, do you mean it or not?"

The last time I saw that lady she reminded me that I had looked up from my desk and replied: —

"Honestly, lady, if you don't know, how do I know?"

Fifteen years have passed. I've looked back over the records. Everything I advocated in those days, which could be done by a State government, has been done. Everything else I advocated then, which a State government could not do, but which must be done by the Congress in Washington, I have been trying to do there. Some of these things have been done since I went to Washington. But we are now down to the last part of it, the redistribution of wealth so that none shall have too much and none shall have too little for life and comfort. That is a thousand times bigger problem than everything else I have ever tried to do put together. It seemed impossible, ridiculous and absurd to try to do such a thing when I first started that fight. But, today, I am more sure of success for the Redistribution of Wealth than I ever was of providing free school books for school children. It's the last fight I will have to make to see the people of America possessed of the things our laws, both of God and man, said they should have: "Life, Liberty and Happiness".

It could be my vanity that makes me work and fight for these things, which I have favored and now favor. Maybe, after all, my enemies are right and it is not any deep feeling that I have for schools or school children that

caused me to want to give students free books or see them educated; maybe it's not any love for humanity which I have that causes me to sponsor this plan that all people should have a home and the comforts of a home, a good living and the chance to give all their children education and training even through college; maybe it's no love of mine for the cause of distressed humanity that causes me to work out such laws as the debt relief statute so that the last thing a person has cannot be sold for a debt which he cannot pay; it may all be that I simply want to have the vanity and pride in my heart satisfied so that I can say that I did those things, — but what matters? I would use any person on earth whom I thought of service to help do good of that kind, regardless of his motive. If I saw a wagon going my way, as long as it goes that way, I would ride in it, no matter who was driving the wagon.

But when I read or hear of some supposed-to-be smart person saying that it is impossible to guarantee a comfortable home and living for all the people that I am insincere in trying to do it: When I hear of them saying that it is foolish to talk about Redistribution of Wealth of this country so that none shall have too much and none too little: then I say, it is not I whom they call insincere and impractical, but what they say is to call the words of God foolish; what they say is to make a lie out of the Declaration of Independence and a fraud out of the Constitution of the United States; what they say makes the Pilgrim fathers, who landed at Plymouth in 1620, a bunch of yokels, although they did succeed in building a new country on the very same principles I urge today. They who denounce what I say ought to see to it that the names of Moses, Jesus Christ, Confucius, Socrates, Plato, Shakespeare, Milton, Bacon, James Madison Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan are never again mentioned in any school room, for all those persons said the same things and advocated the same laws for which they would condemn me today.

God said that ever so often our wealth had to be redistributed and our people released from their debts, and that, if his statutes were kept: —

"Ye shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace to the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid." (Leviticus Chapter 26).

The signers of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, said that the purpose of this government was to guarantee "life, liberty and happiness" and that, when a government failed to do it, that such government ought not to last any longer. Here are the words:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is



the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

The Constitution of the United States of 1787, on which George Washington took the oath as the first president of this country in 1789, was to carry out this pledge of our Declaration of Independence for "life, liberty and happiness". The preamble added: —

"Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

The Pilgrim fathers in their compact of July 1st, 1620, written on board the Mayflower, had declared just one hundred and fifty years before the Revolutionary War that every seven years they would level to the ground, cancel all the debts they held against one another, and divide up everything they had accumulated absolutely equally. Their law was at least three hundred times more radical than anything for which I stand today.

But there are some who are so smart as to say that the words of the Lord are foolish, that the words of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of the United States are meaningless, that the Pilgrim fathers were a set of block-heads, and that to talk about a redistribution of Wealth is idle and vain.

Divine law and our founders, and the history of mankind tell us, that the wealth has been redistributed time and time again, and that it must be done again and again. But there are yet the defenders of concentrated wealth who say that people must starve in the land of too much to eat, that they must go naked in the land of too much to wear, and homeless in the midst of plenty. Now, whose talk sounds like the fool?

Everything I ever have advocated has been criticized by some who have said: — "It cannot be done". I can remember when they would hurrah my supporters off the streets for daring to say they believed I would ever provide free school books for school children. And when we said we would have free bridges and paved roads everywhere, costing the people no more to have them than they were paying to not have them, some naturally said that anyone who believed such a thing was crazy and that we were rascals for fooling people into believing it. Seeing is not believing for some few of them yet, when for a three dollar license tag they ride over a paved road and a free bridge, where for a fifteen dollars license tag they used to ride on a dirt road and pay to cross a ferry.

If every man and woman in Louisiana (who has comfort and life to gain from the Share our Wealth program), will simply take up this work, so that I can have my time left in the other forty-seven states, I can make the torch-light a burning fire in every hamlet in America before we elect another President and Congress. In more than half the States of the Union our pro-

gram is the principal issue before the people. I need time to spend in the balance of the United States where they are calling for me.

But the multi-millionaires and the billionaires and their crooked United States government politicians (and there have never been so many low-down crooks and scoundrels in the United States offices as there are now), — these elements are using everything they can to keep me so closely tied down in Louisiana that I will not have the time to work in the United States Senate and in the other forty-seven States. They have spent millions of dollars in Louisiana for that purpose already. There are several hundred men who for three years and who right now are running all over Louisiana trying to rake up income tax persecutions on people who have been friendly to me.

The Roosevelt administration has already run the public debt of the United States to thirty billions of dollars, not including the last five billion dollars. Over and above that sum our people still owe other public and private debts amounting to another two hundred and thirty billion dollars. That means that every man, woman and child in America owes over two thousand dollars apiece. The masters of finance figure that the common people will have to pay all this money with their blood like they have done up to now. As to the other five billion dollars which the United States has appropriated for them to spend: that money will be used, like they used the balance of it, mostly for their politics. Let nobody be fooled. They never give anybody any money one day after election. They only pay it out before election. After election does not count. What's more they are raking the United States treasury empty this time to save themselves. So, let everybody in Louisiana understand that every dime they ever get out of this five billion dollars of boodle money must be in their pocket **before** they drop their ballot in the box. After that they will give no one a dime for anything, no matter what they promise. I know because I was promised and promised until election, and then it all went up in smoke.

The first use they make of this five billion dollar slush fund will be to flood Louisiana with money. If we work it right we can have some good times here until election. Their side has already announced the sum of one hundred seventy million dollars to spend in Louisiana against Huey Long. That is seventeen hundred dollars apiece for one hundred thousand persons they will want to buy, and still it is a mere bagatelle for them. They have thirty times that much money left to spend in the balance of the United States after they get through with Louisiana. If they can end the trouble that the multi-millionaires and billionaires have over fearing they will have to give up some of their billions of dollars from the fortunes which they do not need, then any kind of price is cheap that they may have to pay to wreck this movement that started in Louisiana.

So this crowd from Washington will call in the crooks and thugs of Louisiana, who, before the year 1928, squandered one hundred million dollars of our money for roads, but built no roads; they will call in the crooked set who tried to force toll bridges which would have cost eight dollars and



forty cents to cross them both ways on one trip instead of the free bridges we built; they will call in the crowd who fought the free school books, the paved roads and the homestead tax relief; they will call in the rascals who handled the Home Owner's Loan money and who grabbed as much as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that money in some cases. The suffering people had to stand for them to take that much of the Home Loan money so as to get the other one-fourth they needed so badly. They will call in the thieves and thugs who have protected the exorbitant telephone and public utility rates; they will call in the set that would sell the people of Louisiana and of the balance of the United States into a slavery to the financial masters that is five times worse than the colored man's slavery before 1860; they will call in that set of grafters, grabbers, murderers, — the plunderers, thugs and racketeers, — the low-down lying whelps of they can steal an advantage against sending humanity to destruction if they can steal an advantage for themselves. These are the ones who will be sent to buy their brothers to make a sale of themselves and their children into slavery and into hell forever.

And to make matters worse, if they succeed, the money they will use to buy the poor people into bondage will be wrung out of the same people's blood and out of the blood of their children and their children's children. The infant that breathes the first breath of life would already be born into financial bondage, just like the negro children were sold into slavery before their birth prior to 1860.

How cheap have the financial masters of America made human flesh and blood! An ordinary negro slave brought about two thousand dollars in slave times. A negro child was born a slave before it breathed the first breath of life because it's father and mother were slaves. Now, for less money, they would have both the white and black children to be doomed to a worse curse than ever affected the negro alone in slave times.

What boots it all with them! They will draw the whip over the bodies of our people and cut the blood from their hides and the hides of their children for years to come; they are doing it now; the mass of humanity, which the money masters may need for common fodder, will be driven on like peons; they will wring out of the misery and sufferings of our people not only enough to pay back the one hundred and seventy millions of dollars they will spend in Louisiana, but many times that sum if they can only put a stop to the move begun here to "share our wealth" in the whole United States.

Our plan to fight this situation is the same one we have always used: to arrange so that our people can go get this big money and then go to the polls and vote for whom they please without anybody being able to tell how they vote. We are going to strengthen our laws to guard this secrecy of the ballot.

Our enemies started the system of dummy candidates. Then we used dummy candidates because we had to fight the devil with fire. Then they

yelled "bloody murder" because we used Dummy Candidates in Overton's election when they were doing the very same thing. We joined them to pass a law to try to prevent that system of dummy candidates, and these enemies wrote the law, but before we could get the law passed these enemies turned and fought the law they had written. We had to pass that law in spite of them. But a few months later they used their dummy candidates in the City of New Orleans for the fall election in 1934 in spite of the law. Then we had to fight it out with their side using the dummies and our side without them. We managed to win anyway.

It is time when we must protect our people with laws like they have in the other states to avoid this same condition the next time. The other states provide for boards in all parishes (counties) to name Commissioners so as to avoid practices and tricks of that kind.

So now we ask our people everywhere, let us all get busy to have our friends to keep their mouths shut and to get hold of all this boodle money that we can. And when one of our crowd slips on the inside, help your fellow man to get it, too. Then help us to conduct a genuine secret election so that all may vote without anyone ever knowing how they voted. We will beat them so badly they will wonder what it is all about. But we must be smart until election day. On that day we can all open up and give them the horse laugh, because there will not be any chance of getting any more out of them anyway.

The main part of this fight must be done now. No one can vote unless he goes to the sheriff's office before May 31st and signs his name in both the 1934 and 1935 poll books. He must get a poll receipt for both these years 1934 and 1935, and the same person must be registered with the Registrar of Voters. This applies to all men and women. For humanity's sake get all our people (especially all our women folk) to go and sign the 1934 and 1935 poll books before May 31st and also get them to register in the Registrar of Voter's office.

We have at last succeeded in our fight to have the right to vote free. Our people can now fight for themselves without having to pay to do it. I ask everybody to please see that all of our people exercise that right. Get them to qualify to vote before it is too late.

If the people of Louisiana can care for this fight in Louisiana, I can take my time for work in the balance of the United States. We have liberated our people in Louisiana only as far as a state law will do it. The balance of it, and in fact, the real good can only be done by what the Congress in Washington does. Please take up the fight in Louisiana and help to give me time to make the fight there and in the balance of America.

Yours sincerely,

HUEY P. LONG.

THE END



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